







The Victoria History of the  
Counties of England

EDITED BY R. B. PUGH, M.A., F.S.A.

A HISTORY OF  
WARWICK

VOLUME VI





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KENILWORTH CASTLE: THE KEEP SEEN FROM THE BANQUETING HALL.

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THE  
VICTORIA HISTORY  
OF THE COUNTIES  
OF ENGLAND  
WARWICK



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PUBLISHED FOR  
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INSCRIBED  
TO THE MEMORY OF  
HER LATE MAJESTY  
**QUEEN VICTORIA**  
WHO GRACIOUSLY GAVE  
THE TITLE TO AND  
ACCEPTED THE  
DEDICATION OF  
THIS HISTORY



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# THE VICTORIA HISTORY OF THE COUNTY OF WARWICK

EDITED BY L. F. SALZMAN, M.A., F.S.A.

VOLUME SIX  
KNIGHTLOW HUNDRED

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## EDITORIAL NOTE

THE incumbents of most of the parishes dealt with in this volume kindly read the proofs relating to their own parishes and in several instances gave useful information, which is acknowledged in the footnotes. We are also indebted to Mr. Philip Chatwin, F.S.A., for help on several architectural points.

We have to thank the Librarian of the Birmingham Reference Library for copies of the drawings of churches in the Aylesford Collection, which are particularly valuable in this Hundred, where the hand of 'restorers' has been heavy. To Lord Leigh we are indebted for the early map of Stoneleigh, and to the Warwickshire County Council in conjunction with the Northamptonshire Records Society for photographs of 18th-century maps from the Montagu-Buccleuch collection. Thanks for the loan of photographs and permission to reproduce them are due to Mr. Walter H. Godfrey, C.B.E., F.S.A., Director of the National Buildings Record, the late Mr. W. A. Clark, F.S.A., F.R.P.S., Mr. Reece Winstone, A.R.P.S., and the proprietors of *Country Life* and the *Leamington Spa Courier*.







## KNIGHTLOW HUNDRED

THIS, the largest of the Warwickshire hundreds, lying on the east of the county contiguous to Leicestershire and Northamptonshire, was represented at the time of the Domesday Survey by three hundreds. Of these 'Bomelau', the northernmost, evidently had its centre in Brandon at a place still called 'Bumbelowe' in 1313 but now lost. Later the site of the court must have shifted to the neighbouring parish of Brinklow, of which the hundred took the title.<sup>1</sup>

South of this, the hundred of 'Stanlei', of which the centre was no doubt Motslow Hill in Stoneleigh, lay to the west and that of 'Meretone', or Marton, to the east.

During the 12th century these three were combined to form what was known as the '*sipesocha*' of Knightlow, a term that had been replaced by 'hundred' by the beginning of the next century. The Domesday hundreds of Brinklow, Marton, and Stoneleigh continued to function, obscurely, as 'leets' until the end of the 16th century.<sup>2</sup> The use of the term 'leet' implies some kind of jurisdiction, though there is no evidence of courts subordinate or supplementary to the main hundred court. Early in the 17th century the hundred of Knightlow was reorganized on a basis of four High Constables' divisions—Kenilworth, Monks Kirby, Rugby, and Southam. These, in turn, were replaced in 1828 by the Petty Sessional divisions of Ansty, Leamington Priors, Rugby, and Southam, with a special sessions for licensing and the appointment of parish officers at Stretton-on-Dunsmore.<sup>3</sup>

A return of 1236–7<sup>4</sup> shows that the hundred was then farmed for 40 marks (£26 13s. 4d.), sheriff's aid came to £15, and other issues, such as view of frankpledge, brought the total value to £46 10s. 5d.—the other hundreds of the county being, in round figures, Hemlingford £26, Kington £25, and Barlichway £15. Approximately the same figures were returned some 25 years earlier.<sup>5</sup> In 1283 the farm of the hundred, which had been in the hands of Richard de Stretton, was £29 17s.<sup>6</sup> The hundred remained with the Crown, being farmed out to various persons from time to time, until Charles I on 29 July 1628 granted it to Sir Francis Leigh with a number of small rents and a very long list of franchises.<sup>7</sup> From Sir Francis, later Lord Dunsmore, it descended with the manor of Dunchurch (q.v.)<sup>8</sup> to the Dukes of Montagu and so to the Dukes of Buccleuch, being still held by the present duke.

Among the issues of the hundred in 1236–7 was 'warth-penny' and among the franchises in 1628 'the wroth monies'. The payment of the 'wroth silver', as it is now called, has continued to the present time.<sup>9</sup> At dawn on St. Martin's Day (11 November) the steward of the Duke of Buccleuch and the representatives of such parishes and townships as owe these dues assemble on Knightlow

<sup>1</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* iii, 1.

<sup>2</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* iii, 3, 4.

<sup>3</sup> *Cal. Inq. Misc.* i, 1278.

<sup>4</sup> *R. T. Simpson, Collection of 'Wroth Silver' (1910).*

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.* 3; cf. *Stowe Chart.* 645 (16th cent.).

<sup>6</sup> *Exch. K.R. Accts.* 505, no. 14.

<sup>7</sup> *Dugd.* 3, 4.

<sup>8</sup> *Red Bk. of Exch.* 776–7.

<sup>9</sup> See below, p. 81.



## A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

Hill (in Ryton-on-Dunsmore) round a large stone, the base of a former cross, with a square hole (originally for the shaft of the cross) in it. The steward reads the 'Charter of Assembly' and calls the names of the parishes; their representatives then cast the required money into the hollow of the stone, saying 'Wroth Silver'. The penalty for non-payment is to provide a white bull with red nose and ears, or to pay a fine of 20s. for every penny not produced. The fees paid in this century are: 1*d.* from Arley, Astley, Birdingbury, Bramcote, Barnacle and Shilton, Little Walton, and Woolscot; 1½*d.* from Bourton and Draycot, Napton, Radford Semele, and Whitley; 2½*d.* from Bubbenhall, Churchover, Ladbroke, Princethorpe, Stretton-on-Dunsmore, Toft, and Weston-under-Wetherley; 4*d.* from Hillmorton, Hopsford, Wolston and Marston, and Lillington; 1*s.* from Leamington Hastings; 2*s.* 2*d.* from Long Itchington; and 2*s.* 3½*d.* from Harbury. These, with the exception of Harbury, occur with similar sums in the list given by Dugdale (*c.* 1650)<sup>10</sup> and in another of 1687;<sup>11</sup> Dugdale also includes Baginton, Bilton, Cestersover, Frankton, Harborough Magna, Newnham Paddox, Rugby, Shuckborough, and Whitnash, but the 1687 return lists these under the heading—'Wroth money denied to be paid'. For the most part the same figures apply to a list of 'warth' payments in 1367.<sup>12</sup> The sums appear to be arbitrary, and their significance is unknown. The idea that 'warth' is a corruption of 'ward'<sup>13</sup> is borne out by its appearance as 'ward-peni' in a return of the time of King John,<sup>14</sup> but it is not clear in what sense the word was used, and the persistence of the 'th' spelling, to which this is the only known exception, combined with the curious bull forfeiture, makes this derivation very doubtful. In this early return the same due was being paid in the other hundreds of Warwickshire, but not in those of the associated county of Leicester. Payments in the other hundreds have not been traced beyond the return of 1367, nor have we any knowledge whether similar forfeitures for non-payment were demanded in them.

<sup>10</sup> Dugd. 4.

<sup>12</sup> Exch. K.R. Accts. 509, no. 9.

<sup>14</sup> *Red Bk. of Exch.* 777.

<sup>11</sup> Montagu-Buccleuch MSS. *penes* Northants. Rec. Soc.

<sup>13</sup> Accepted by the *New English Dictionary*.

## ALLESLEY

Acreeage: 4,257.<sup>1</sup>

Population: 1911, 955; 1921, 1,013; 1931, 994.

The old parish of Allesley, to the west of Coventry, forms a roughly rectangular block 3 miles from north to south with an average width of a little over 2 miles. It lies for the most part at elevations between 400 ft. and 500 ft., sloping down at the south-east to 300 ft. The ground is open, with many ponds and small streams. Of the latter the largest are the River Sherbourne, running near the eastern boundary south from the mill-pond at Hawkes End and then south-east, and the Pickford Brook, which in the north forms part of the western boundary and then turns south-east to join the Sherbourne at the south-eastern angle of the parish. Between them, a little before their junction, the village of Allesley lies on the Coventry-Birmingham road. A short distance south of the village, across the Brook, is Allesley Park, with an early-18th-century mansion and contemporary square dovecote, and the earthwork called 'the Castle'. Of this all that is known is that when Robert Fitch died in 1588 he was seised of 'the site of the late castle of Allesley';<sup>2</sup> it may perhaps have been erected by Lord Hastings early in the 14th century at the same time as his fortress at Fillongley (q.v.).<sup>3</sup>

Half a mile west of the Castle a road runs westwards through Lower and Upper Eastern Green. This district was constituted an ecclesiastical parish in 1876, the church of St. Andrew, Eastern Green, having been built and endowed by Mrs. Morgan in 1875; it is a building of red brick with Bath Stone dressings, in the style of the 13th century, and has a tower and spire; the living is a vicarage in the gift of the rector of Allesley.<sup>4</sup> There is a school here and another, founded in 1705 by Martha Flint, in Allesley.<sup>5</sup>

The parish is dotted with 18th-century and modern farm-houses, except on the east side where the city of Coventry has encroached with housing estates and ribbon development. A by-road runs north-west from the village through this recently developed area and then alongside the River Sherbourne into open country, passing close by a farm-house, called 'Stone House', which stands on the east side of the road with the river between. The main block of this house faces south, with gables to east and west. A back wing runs northward—recessed back from the west gable, but as the east side of this is made up of a more recent addition, it is probable that the original nucleus, built in the 16th century, was in the shape of an inverted T. The stem of the T originally extended to include what is now an isolated block of the same type, and ancient foundations run farther north and then return westwards; these are now incorporated in modern and 17th-century timber-framed cow-sheds with brick nogging. An 18th-century barn on the west side encloses the farm-yard.<sup>6</sup>

The 16th-century portions are of reddish-grey sandstone and are two-storied. There are a number of mullioned windows at both levels, they have straight cyma-moulded hoods and are all of similar type, having a single chamfered order recessed by a small square rebate behind the face of the surround, which, together with the quoins-blocks on the angles, project a similar

amount from the wall face. In the case of the rear block the wall surface is smoothly rendered flush with these features by rough-cast, with which the whole may originally have been treated. A slight chamfered ashlar plinth surrounds the ancient portions of the buildings. Above this level the main front has been rebuilt in the mid-17th century of brick with stone quoins, central doorway, and two windows on each side. The latter, together with five others lighting the first floor, are all similar, each having a square mullion and transom (moulded only on the interior face) with moulded and recessed architraves framing them. The doorway is also of stone, except for the brickwork filling the field within the curved pediment, which is supported on a plain pulvinated frieze and a heavy bolection-moulded architrave. A moulded stone string marks the level of the first floor on this façade only, and this is broken by the pediment of the doorway. The roofs are mainly of tile with open eaves. The gables carry parapets with boldly projecting moulded kneelers. The chimney-stacks have been rebuilt in brick. The only original doorway pierces the north wall of the main block and is combined with a window light, its one jamb being treated like the window mullions. The other door at the rear, in the north wall of the wing, where a narrower wing once continued northwards to link up with the remaining building, is modern. The east wall of the connecting-link remains, with two ground-floor windows of the same 16th-century type. Close to the south-east angle on the east side there are signs of a square opening with an ancient oak lintel and 17th-century brickwork blocking it beneath; this now forms a cupboard in a room fitted with large heavy panels and bolection-moulded architraves around the doors and fire-place.

The garden to the south of the house is partly surrounded by walls. A portion of the 16th-century stone wall remains on the east side, covered by two courses of weathered copings. The south wall is of slighter stonework, and to the west and south-west the walling is of brickwork on a stone plinth, which may mark the footings of the ancient wall. There are 18th-century stone ball finials on the brick gate-piers and on a pier where the wall is stepped up in height.

Half a mile northwards similar stonework exists at a cottage standing to the east of the road junction, Hawkes End. This has a large stone chimney-breast, but the remainder of the walls are of 18th-century brick. In the village of Allesley, too, there is 'The Stone House', so named, which stands below the churchyard on the opposite (south) side of the road facing east on to the entrance to a drive leading to Allesley Park. It has two flanking gables, and in the centre a porch carries a first-floor bay-window. The whole stands on a chamfered plinth and consists of two main stories, with attics provided with a two-light window in each gable. All the windows have square heads and carry straight drip-moulds,<sup>7</sup> and some contain a single transom. Those in the gables have a single-chamfered order, with one three-light window in each at first-floor level and taller transomed three-light windows below

wing built against the east main gable.

<sup>7</sup> This may have been an angle in a projecting chimney-breast.

<sup>8</sup> Again in the form of a cyma moulding.

<sup>1</sup> Parts of the parish having been added to the city of Coventry in 1927 and 1932, the present acreage is 3,209; Kelly, *Directory of Warwick* (1936).

<sup>2</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccxii, 145.

<sup>3</sup> *F.C.H. Warwick*, iv, 70.

<sup>4</sup> Kelly, *Directory of Warwick*, (1936).

<sup>5</sup> *F.C.H. Warwick*, ii, 371.

<sup>6</sup> In addition there is a small modern

them. All the glazing is modern, as are the roof of slate and the brick chimneys. The finials have disappeared from the gables, but there are kneelers supported on square corbels. The gable over the porch is similarly treated but of steeper pitch, and the doorway below is approached by steps from the footpath, which is raised above the roadway. It is an open doorway with a lintelled head shaped into a flat ogee, having a moulded edge which returns a third of the way down the jambs on to moulded stops. Superimposed upon the plain lintel is a small square panel with 'WWO 1608' in raised lettering. The hood-mould repeats the ogee shape of the head with a fleur-de-lis on the apex; the ends have square returns which drop onto diamond-shaped stops. Each flanking wall bordering on the door-jambs carries a light pilaster strip rising from a square plinth block and topped by a fan-shape and a moulded tapering finial. The ground-floor windows are of five lights with transoms. The bay-window over the porch has four front lights, and three lights each side. Two remaining three-light windows light the first floor, with the bay-window between them. Single plain slit-lights pierce the side walls of the porch.

The building now functions as a home for the aged under the Ministry of Health, and the interior has been greatly altered and restored, and only a trace of the original fire-places remains. All the other façades are either of 18th-century brickwork or else modern.

A little to the south-east of Hollyberry Hall (of which some part is of the late 18th century) is a timber-framed cottage, built c. 1600 and now (1949) in bad repair. The framing is in square panels with brick nogging, and there are some stop-chamfered beams inside.

The only extensive block of woodland is on the northern boundary of the parish, consisting of Daddley's, Muzzard's, and Hooton's Woods to the north of Hollyfast Farm and Wall Hill, with Hawke's End Wood and Pleek's Wood to the south. In 1325 there were attached to the manor woods called Hasshawue, Bolewelleschauue, Estendemor, and Suffage Grove.<sup>9</sup> At that time there was also a water-mill and a windmill, the latter being presumably at the present Windmill Farm, half a mile north-west from the village.

The inquiry into depopulation in 1517 showed that two of Lord Bergavenny's tenants in Allesley had recently inclosed arable and converted it to pasture. William Pereson of Banbury had inclosed 28 acres, allowing a messuage to decay and a plough to go out of use; and William Smyth 20 acres, entailing the ejection of six persons.<sup>10</sup> About 1652 agreements were made between a number of the landowners, Sir John Smith, Thomas Flint, Richard Hopkins of Eastern Green, and others, for inclosing the open cornfields of the parish, which led to disputes but seem to have become effective.<sup>11</sup>

ALLESLEY was originally a member of MANOR Coventry and by about 1140 was in the hands of the Earl of Chester.<sup>12</sup> On the extinction of that earldom a hundred years later the overlordship came into the hands of the Crown,<sup>13</sup> and in 1313 the manor was held of the king as of the Honor of Chester,<sup>14</sup> as it still was in 1476.<sup>15</sup> In 1235 a knight's fee in Allesley was among the fees of Hugh d'Aubigny<sup>16</sup> (son of William d'Aubigny, Earl of Arundel, who married one sister and coheir of Ranulph, Earl of Chester). This fee was probably already held by Henry de Hastings,<sup>17</sup> who in 1244 held it of Roger de Somery<sup>18</sup> (husband of Nichole, sister and coheir of Hugh d'Aubigny, Earl of Arundel).

When Henry died in 1250 his son Henry was a minor and the manor therefore came into the king's hand and was committed in 1251 to the care of Geoffrey de Lusignan.<sup>19</sup> The younger Henry de Hastings took the side of Simon de Montfort in 1265 and forfeited the manor of Allesley, valued at £15,<sup>20</sup> but his wife Joan was given the custody of it.<sup>21</sup> He died in 1269 and his son John, 1st Lord Hastings, in 1279 held the manor, which then included 6½ yardlands held by 11 freeholders and 20½ yardlands of villeinage, with 30 acres of park, which had been formed by his grandfather out of land in Westwood waste acquired from the abbey of Stoneleigh;<sup>22</sup> the whole was held of Roger de Somery who held it of the king by yearly render of a palfre.<sup>23</sup> Lord Hastings had rights of free warren, gallowes, and the assize of bread and ale in the manor.<sup>24</sup> After the death of his son John the manor, valued at £56 14s. 7½d., was assigned in 1325 to his widow Julian, who had already married Thomas Blount.<sup>25</sup> It was similarly assigned to Anne, widow of John de Hastings, Earl of Pembroke, and reverted on her death in 1384<sup>26</sup> to her young son John, on whose death in 1389 it passed to his cousin Reynold Grey of Ruthin<sup>27</sup> and was included in a general settlement of his estates in 1400.<sup>28</sup> The manor, however, had been so entailed that it should have descended to Sir William Beauchamp, Lord Bergavenny, with whose granddaughter Elizabeth<sup>29</sup> it passed in marriage to Sir Edward Nevill, who was seised thereof at his death in 1476.<sup>30</sup> His descendant Henry, Lord Bergavenny, conveyed it in 1639 to Sir Henry Compton,<sup>31</sup> who apparently held it three years before,<sup>32</sup> probably on mortgage. Sir Henry sold it to Thomas Flint, serjeant-at-law, who died in 1670,<sup>33</sup> and his widow Martha (Greswold) in 1692 conveyed it to Henry Neale.<sup>34</sup> In this family it descended until the death, without issue, of Col. John Neale<sup>34a</sup> in 1793 and of his widow in 1805. The manor then passed to the Rev. Edward Vansittart, rector of Taplow, Bucks.,



NEALE. Party sable and gules a leopard argent.

<sup>9</sup> Cal. Inq. p.m. vi, 388.

<sup>10</sup> Leadam, *Domesday of Inclosures*, 435.

<sup>11</sup> Notes from deeds of the 17th family.

<sup>12</sup> See below, under 'Advowson'.

<sup>13</sup> Cal. Close, 1247-51, pp. 339, 406.

<sup>14</sup> Cf. G.E.C. *Complete Peerage* (2nd ed.), iii,

170.

<sup>15</sup> Cal. Inq. p.m. v, 388.

<sup>16</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. 16 Edw. IV, no. 66.

<sup>17</sup> *Bk. of Fees*, 510.

<sup>18</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xi), 540.

<sup>19</sup> Cal. Close, 1242-7, p. 251.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid. 1247-51, pp. 339, 406.

<sup>21</sup> Cal. Inq. Misc. i, 929.

<sup>22</sup> Cal. Close, 1264-8, p. 130.

<sup>23</sup> Dugd. 129; Cal. Close, 1247-51,

p. 339.

<sup>24</sup> Dugd. 129.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.; *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec.

Com.), 777.

<sup>26</sup> Cal. Close, 1323-7, p. 404.

<sup>27</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. 7 Ric. II, no. 67.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid. 14 Ric. II, no. 147.

<sup>29</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xviii), 2388.

<sup>30</sup> G.E.C. *Complete Peerage* (2nd ed.),

i, 24.

<sup>31</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. 16 Edw. IV, no. 66.

<sup>32</sup> Recov. R. Hil. 14 Chas. I, no. 7.

<sup>33</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cliv, 9.

<sup>34</sup> Dugd. 129, 131 (M.I. in church).

<sup>34a</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Hil. 4 Wm. &

Mary.

<sup>35</sup> In 1760 his grandfather, Thomas Neale, was said to have ruined himself by standing for Coventry, so that the house was going to ruin and 'the great iron gates next the road' had been sold: Bodl. MS. Top. Gen. c. 25, fol. 138.

as son of the granddaughter of John, son of the first-mentioned Henry Neale.<sup>35</sup> He took the name and arms of Neale and held the manor until his death in 1850,<sup>36</sup> when it passed to his son Edward, the great Socialist and founder of the Co-operative movement,<sup>37</sup> soon after which it was acquired by George Woodcock of Coventry, who still held it in 1874.<sup>38</sup> By 1900 it was in the hands of Frederick Twist of Coventry,<sup>39</sup> and in 1936 Harold Twist was lord of the manor.<sup>40</sup>

The church of *ALL SAINTS* is built *CHURCH* on the rising ground to the north-east of the Birmingham road where this enters the village from Coventry. It is approached by steps and a long ramp which ascends the bank by the road, and consists of chancel, with a vestry adjoining, nave, north and south aisles, south porch, and west tower with a spire.

The 12th-century arcade on the south side is all that remains of the church built c. 1130.<sup>41</sup> The tower and spire were erected or rebuilt in the 13th century<sup>42</sup> and the north aisle was added in the 14th, when the chancel may also have been rebuilt. The vestry and porch are new, and the chancel and south aisle were completely rebuilt in 1863 when the whole church was restored. Both the new and ancient walls are of red sandstone.

The east wall of the new chancel is flanked by pairs of square buttresses with deep chamfers finishing 5 ft. below the base of the gable, which is surmounted by a stone cross. A small, glazed, trefoiled light pierces the gable above a large five-light east window with geometrical tracery. The plinth consists of two plain chamfers. The south side is divided into two bays by a single buttress of similar type, and each bay contains a two-light window with a trefoiled circle in the head. The eaves are open and carried on a plain chamfered line of corbels. On the north the wall is covered as far as the angle buttresses by the east bay of the north aisle.

The modern south aisle is equal in length to the nave and is similar in treatment to the chancel, with a three-light window in the east gable wall and in each of the two eastern bays of the south wall, with geometrical tracery. A porch divides these windows from a single lancet window on the west side. The buttresses are similar to those of the chancel but are diagonal at the angles. The south porch has a doorway with a two-centred head carried on heavy attached shafts with foliated caps. At the foot of the gable parapet the kneelers are supported by small twin shafts incised into the angles. The west gable of the aisle has a two-light window with trefoiled lights, and, in the gable, a circular window, quatrefoiled with a second circle of tracery within. Set diagonally between this wall and the south wall of the tower is a modern, plain, two-centred doorway to give access to the tower vice, above which it weathers back into the angle, topped by a leafy finial. The left jamb is brought forward 1 ft. from the face of the tower to accommodate a buttress (see below).

The east gable of the north aisle contains an original 14th-century three-light window set immediately above a string-course with a rounded top and underside chamfered, stretching across between the modern square buttress of the chancel to the south and a 14th-century diagonal buttress on the angle. The plinth has two plain chamfers, the upper projecting with a drip, and the gable parapet is covered by a restored plain coping

with a gable cross; the kneelers have small gables. The window is of two chamfered orders; the cusped head of each light is lancet shaped and filled with a minor tracery-bar supported on a cusped ogee minor head growing from the chamfers of the main bars. The north wall of this aisle is divided into four bays by buttresses similar to that on the north-east angle. The eaves are open with rafters carried on a corbelled course of stonework, all renewed during the restoration. The second bay from the east angle is filled between the buttresses by a new vestry, whose north wall is gabled with a central chimney; the east wall has a square-headed mullioned window, and the west wall a doorway with a two-centred head. The remaining three bays each have a window, the two to the west being two-light with their tracery of new stonework resembling the original window in the east wall, but with a circular centrepiece above with quatrefoil cusping. That to the east bay is three-light and similar to the east window, the spandrels in the head being uncusped, but all the tracery has been renewed. The renewal of stonework in the western bay has been more extensive on account of a doorway beneath the window having been taken out and blocked with masonry; its position is marked by the return ends of the plinth, 4 ft. apart. The north-west angle is similarly treated with a diagonal buttress and the window in the west gable resembles those of two lights in the north wall. The gable is similar to that at the east and lines up with the east wall of the tower.

The tower has two stages divided by a continuous played off-set. The buttresses are square and massive, two at each angle. Each has a deep top play reaching to within 2 ft. of the off-set and has two further played front-face offsets between this and the plinth. The latter is made up of two plays which return round the buttresses. To accommodate the west doorway the upper plinth-play is cut and the lower is returned into the wall face. The doorway is small and of two orders with a two-centred head upon shafted jambs, and it appears to have been built during the restoration. The inner order is chamfered and continuous with that of the jambs ending on chamfered stops. A mould is cut on the angle of the outer order, which descends on the abacus of the foliated capitals, which, like all the detail of the doorway, are of 13th-century type. There is a hood-mould with a rounded top hollowed underneath which stops on foliage bosses. There is a tall window stretching from a point 2 ft. above the apex of the doorway to a distance of 7 ft. from the off-set. It is two-centred and contemporary with the tower, although portions of the head and the single mullion have apparently been renewed. The hollow-moulded hood is carried on two head-stops. There are two chamfered orders carried on a played sill. The head is equilateral and contains a circle of tracery with pointed cusps forming a quatrefoil. The head of each light is trefoiled in a similar manner. A little above the off-set is the sill of a smaller window which also appears to be of the same period, though the hood-mould and head-stops are new. The single hollow-chamfered mullion divides to meet the head and to form the two lights, each of which has an apex placed between the line of the window jamb and the centre-line of the light. The unevenly balanced head of each light is trefoiled, but the pierced central

<sup>35</sup> Burke, *Landed Gentry* (1937). Cf. Gamekeepers' Deputations, Shire Hall, Warwick.

<sup>36</sup> White, *Directory of Warw.* (1850).

<sup>37</sup> *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

<sup>38</sup> White, *Directory of Warw.* (1874).

<sup>39</sup> Kelly, *Directory of Warw.* (1900).

<sup>40</sup> *Ibid.* (1936).

<sup>41</sup> See below, n. 45.

<sup>42</sup> Probably c. 1250: see below, n. 46.



## A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

spandrel above is not cusped. The belfry two-light windows are unglazed and contain boarded louvres on all four faces of the tower. They have two-chamfered orders and possess no hood-mould; they are similar to the lowest window on the west face. Above them is a corbel-table consisting of a large hollow-mould containing a row of nine corbelled heads, animal and human, inclusive of those inclined at the angles, which have lead spouts. Above is a small level parapet topped by a roll surmounting a double splay.

The north face contains two openings only, both above the offset and similar to those on the west. The plinth returns against that of the north aisle, which is 6 in. higher. A block of stone with splayed top projects from the tower wall near the north-east angle, but there is no other trace of a buttress on this angle. On the south face, the plinth stops against the modern walling, forming the door-jamb referred to above, which goes up to support an ancient buttress of the same projection but which overlaps this support by 9 in. on the west side. This extra width is held up on an ancient corbel, two stones deep and built up of two hollows, the edge between them having a rounded fillet. Two plain slit-lights piercing the buttress light a part of the vice. The top splay matches those of the other buttresses, but there are no offsets below. Another slit-light occurs immediately to the west of the top offset. On this face is a 19th-century iron clock dial. The two windows above the offset are similar to the others; and a feature in common to all is the curious break in the vertical alignment of these upper windows. On the west face all the openings are apparently on the centre-line except that between offset and belfry, which is placed some 6 in. to the north; on the north face, the same window is drawn 6 in. to the east, and on the south 6 in. to the west, the belfry window above always being central.

The spire is octagonal and there are plain broaches at the four angles. Spire-lights occur at three different levels and upon alternate sides: (a) immediately above the parapet and facing the cardinal points, having two plain chamfered orders rising into lancet-shaped heads, each window containing two lights filled with louvre-boards; they are gabled out from the spire slope with slightly projecting verges having a roll apex and drips at the shoulders; (b) on each alternate face mid-way up the spire (similar to a but smaller, having only a single order and without louvres); (c) upper lights, again to the cardinal points, of small size and without mullion or louvres. A foliated stone finial bears a gilded wrought-iron weather-vane at the spire apex.

In the modern chancel the sandstone frames all the openings, but the remainder of the wall is plastered. The trussed rafters forming the roof are exposed. The east window and that immediately to the south have modern stained glass. Oak panelling round the sanctuary embraces an aumbry on the north side which may be part of an original wall. This has two square-headed openings with a square mullion between them. A projection from the rear of the mullion, which is curved underneath, assists in the support of the stone-work above. On the south side there is a piscina (modern) and a window-seat. There is a two-centred arch, having an inner chamfered order resting on heavy foliated corbels, which overlooks the east bay of the south aisle. The chancel arch is similar, but with its inner order supported on half-columns having similar capitals.

The east bay of the north aisle is screened off in the

west by a modern oak screen (unpierced) for an organ chamber and choir vestry. The north arcade has three two-centred arches of two chamfered orders supported on two octagonal piers and half-octagonal responds with an outer chamfered order. The east bay has been restored, but those to the west appear to be of the 14th century, and the two original bases are octagonal with roll mouldings. The moulded capitals are all similar and have fluted neckings opening out with a plain face to a fillet with a roll-moulding over, separated from the hollow-moulded abacus by a sunk billet enrichment.

The nave has no clearstory and the roof is modern, being open and of the trussed-rafter type. The walls are treated in the same manner as the chancel except for a patch of exposed masonry above the tower arch. The arcade opening on to the south aisle is also of three bays, but that to the east is modern, being similar to those opposite, except that in place of the free-standing octagonal pier there is a semi-octagonal jamb built on to a larger pier, 2 ft. 6 in. wide, which separates this bay from two 12th-century bays to the west. The latter both carry semicircular arches of two plain square orders, the inner arch-ring being the deeper. The east 12th-century respond has a capital which is square at the top and equal in thickness to the pier it adjoins; there is a plain chamfered abacus above. The lower portion of the capital is scalloped, the grooves between the scallops at the angles are plain, but all the remaining grooves are filled with ridged projections; the necking is a heavy roundel which returns round the angle of the wall and is then cut off. The base-mould of the circular shaft consists of a slightly rounded chamfer carried upon a square base block without spurs. The centre column is similar except that the diameter exceeds that of the responds, being equal to the full thickness of the wall, and the capital has no groove on the angles as there are angle-scallops. The west respond is exactly similar to that on the east. The west tower-arch is lancet shaped and consists of two heavy chamfered orders. The caps are moulded with a rounded necking and a plain field above, swelling into an undercut rounded mould supporting grooved filets. The abacus above has a rounded edge with a central fillet. The base consists of two roll mouldings divided by a fillet.

In the south-west corner of the nave, piercing the west wall, is the original doorway to the vice; it is two-centred with a single chamfered order and contains the original door with wrought-iron strap-hinges. It is now disused and is covered by the pews.

The south aisle windows are glazed with stained glass in each end gable. When the aisle was rebuilt it was evidently extended by one extra bay eastwards,<sup>43</sup> and the east wall of this is now faced with an inscribed oak-panelled war memorial.

The inner doors of the south porch and the doorway with its two-centred head are modern, the exterior jambs are shafted, and the two exterior moulded orders of the arch are framed by a hood-mould.

All the roofs and floors are modern.

A modern stone and marble font stands opposite the south door and beside the round 12th-century pier. Modern and 18th-century wall monuments adorn the south aisle. Similar monuments of the 18th century are against the north and south walls of the north aisle; one on the north side, dated 1684, commemorating a servant of the family of John Lacon, is rectangular and surrounded by an architrave which is supported on two

<sup>43</sup> Mr. Bree confirms that the burial vaults below this bay were once outside the church walls.

consoles. More of the late 18th century are at the west end of the north and south nave walls and under the tower. All the furniture in the chancel is modern.

There are eight bells: 1 and 4 are by Joseph Smith of Edgbaston, 1708; 2 is probably by Thomas Newcombe, c. 1570; 3 was a 15th-century bell but was recast in 1901; 5 is by Robert Newcombe, 1710; and 6 by Taylor, 1901.<sup>44</sup> Two more have recently been added.

The registers of marriages and burials begin in 1562; those of baptisms in 1569, but the earliest volume is imperfect.

There are many 18th-century tombs in the churchyard and a few elm trees of great age. The Rectory adjoins the churchyard to the west, and its spacious front garden runs parallel with the churchyard and down to the main road where a picturesque 18th-century brick arbour with an oriel window overlooks the steep bank.

In about 1130 Bishop Roger of *ADFOWSON* Coventry, at the request of Ranulph, Earl of Chester, allowed a chapel to be built for the poor people of Allesley, reserving the right of sepulture to the mother church of Coventry.<sup>45</sup> By an arrangement made in 1249 the chapel became independent, the incumbent receiving all tithes and oblations, except the tithes of the park and personal tithes, and paying 6s. 8d. yearly to the church of Coventry in lieu of burial fees.<sup>46</sup> This may have been the outcome of a dispute between the monks of Coventry and the rector of Allesley, about which they complained in 1236 that the Bishop had ignored their appeal to the Pope.<sup>47</sup> The benefice was said to be worth £5 in 1256,<sup>48</sup> but was valued at £8 in 1291<sup>49</sup> and at £17 18s. 8d. in 1535,<sup>50</sup> at which date the cellarer of Coventry Priory provided 2s. 6d. for the support of a lamp in the chapel of Blessed Mary at Allesley.<sup>51</sup> Meadowland and a grove called Hornechurch were also appropriated to the support of lights in the church.<sup>52</sup>

The Adfowson descended with the manor until at least 1739, when John Neale presented,<sup>53</sup> but by 1748 it was in the hands of Thomas Bree, M.D., and in 1778 Ann Bree, widow, presented.<sup>54</sup> It has continued in the same family, H. W. Mapleton-Bree being patron at the present time.<sup>55</sup>

The Rev. William Thomas Bree, rector from 1823 to 1863, acquired a reputation as an authority on botany and entomology.<sup>56</sup> An earlier rector, William Warde, in 1638 achieved local notoriety as a drunkard who played ninepins with a butcher on Sunday and fought a cobbler in the ale-house yard.<sup>57</sup>

Poor's Land. It is recorded on the *CHARITIES* Table of Benefactions that there was given by unknown benefactors £98, with which were purchased a tenement and certain land in Allesley. Parts of the land have since been sold and the proceeds invested.

Robert Moore by will dated 27 January 1639 gave £4 to the churchwardens and overseers of Allesley, the income thereon to be disposed of to six poor people in six sixpenny loaves on St. Thomas's Day and six sixpenny loaves upon Good Friday yearly for ever. The £4 is supposed to have formed part of the £98 with which the Poor's Lands were purchased, as from the

earliest records remaining 6s. has been paid out of the rents towards the bread distribution.

Mary Tallis by will dated 27 June 1637 charged certain land called Berks Land in Allesley with the payment of 5s. to the poor of the town of Allesley to be paid at Easter.

Ann Ebourn by will in 1745 gave £100 to the poor of Allesley, one moiety of the interest to be paid on 19 March equally between four old maids or widows of Allesley, not receiving weekly collection, and the other moiety to four poor girls, inhabitants and settled in Allesley, equally, towards clothing them when going out to service.

Martha Wigley by will in 1773 gave to the minister and churchwardens £100, the interest to be distributed annually on 19 March among four poor widows and four poor children of Allesley equally; the children's shares to go towards clothing them to go to service.

Elizabeth Tristram, will dated in or about 1754, £50
Anne Cole, " " " 1759, £20
John Taylor, " " " 1766, £20
Richard Bosworth, " " " 1774, £20

The above four bequests are recorded in the Table of Benefactions as given for the benefit of the poor.

John Barber by will dated 1780 gave to the minister and churchwardens of Allesley £40, the interest to be applied in the purchase of Bibles and Prayer Books, upon which should be put some memorial to his benefaction, and which should be distributed yearly on the anniversary of his death among deserving poor.

Elizabeth Huddesford by codicil dated 9 October 1829 to will dated 21 August 1822 bequeathed to the rector and churchwardens of Allesley £200, the interest to be either distributed amongst poor inhabitants of the parish or otherwise laid out in the purchase of books or otherwise for the use of the Endowed Free School in Allesley.

Catherine Eagle and Elizabeth Morgan in 1847 gave to the rector of Allesley the sum of £200 in 3 per cent. Consols, the interest thereof to be applied in equal moieties to the Girls' School at Allesley and in bread or flannel on St. Thomas's Day to such poor women of Allesley as the rector shall select.

John Francis Greswolde-Williams by will dated 26 May 1891 gave £1,000, the income to be paid to the rector and churchwardens of Allesley, to the intent that the income should on 23 October in each year (or as soon after as could conveniently be done) be distributed among parishioners or other poor persons resident in the parish in orders upon shops for flannel or other things for domestic use or comfort, or in money for paying the rent of their cottages or lodgings.

The above-mentioned charities, with the exception of the share of the charities of Catherine Eagle and Elizabeth Morgan for the Girls' School at Allesley, are now regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 31 August 1920. The scheme appoints a body of trustees to administer the charities and provides that the income of the charity of John Barber shall be applied in the purchase of Bibles, New Testaments, and Prayer Books, the income of the remaining charities shall be applied under various heads for the general benefit of the poor, and further that one-half of

<sup>44</sup> Tilley and Walters, *Church Bells of Warwick*, 97-8. <sup>45</sup> Dugd. 129.

<sup>46</sup> Ibid. 130. <sup>47</sup> Cal. Papal L. i, 150.

<sup>48</sup> Ibid. 130.

<sup>49</sup> Tax. Eccl. (Rec. Com.), 211.

<sup>50</sup> Valor Eccl. (Rec. Com.), iii, 58.

<sup>51</sup> Ibid. 51.

<sup>52</sup> Rentals (P.R.O.), portf. 28, no. 13.

<sup>53</sup> Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.).

<sup>54</sup> Ibid.

<sup>55</sup> Glegg Lists.

<sup>56</sup> Kelly, *Directory of Warwick*, (1936).

<sup>57</sup> Cal. S.P. Dom. 1637-8, p. 539. He was still rector two years later: *ibid.* 1040, p. 106.

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the income of the charities of Ann Ebourn and Martha Wigley shall be applied in the supply of clothes or other benefits to poor girls on their going into service or other employment.

The annual income of the charities amounts to £65 approximately.

Elizabeth Morgan by will dated 30 August 1864 gave to the rector of Allesley £2,000, the interest to be expended in coal, food, and clothing at Christmas among poor and aged men and women residing within the parish, a preference being given to those who have been the most industrious, steady, and useful members of society in early life. The annual income of the charity amounts to £57 11s. 8d.

Church Lands. This charity is regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 25 May 1923.

The scheme appoints a body of trustees and provides for the income to be applied in payment to the Parochial Church Council of any sums expended on the maintenance of the parish church and steeple of Allesley. The endowment now consists of lands in the parishes of Allesley and Meriden and a sum of £307 12s. 9d. 3½ per cent. War Stock, representing the proceeds of sale of land formerly belonging to the charity.

Parish Room. By an Indenture dated 6 July 1898 a piece of land in Allesley was conveyed to trustees for a parish room to be erected thereon. The deed provides that the room shall be used as a Parish Room for the parish of Allesley and part of the hamlets of Eastern Green and Corley for such social, educational, and parochial purposes as the managing committee of the property shall think proper.

## ARLEY

Acreage: 1,946.

Population: 1911, 1,027; 1921, 1,760; 1931, 3,751.

Arley is a parish about 6 miles west of Nuneaton, bounded on the north by Ansley, east by Astley, south and south-west by Fillongley, and on the north-west by Over Whitacre. The original nucleus of the village was around the church, the large Georgian Rectory, and the school at cross-roads near the centre of the parish; there is a line of 18th-century brick cottages against the churchyard, but the main settlement is now at Gun Hill in the south-east, where the Arley Colliery Co., Ltd., the principal landowners, have opened a pit and built a village of 600 houses. Here is St. Michael's (C. of E.) Church, a stone building seating 250 persons, built in 1928 by the Colliery Company; also a Roman Catholic church and Miners' Welfare Hall.<sup>1</sup>

Arley Hall, which is situated close to the east edge of the large Arley Wood, about ½ mile west of the church, has remains of a moat, and some of the masonry may be medieval, but the house has been completely modernized; Arley Grange, to the south of this, and Arley House, about ½ mile east, are 18th-century buildings. The Bourne Brook flows in a winding course across the parish from north to south-west, and for a short distance divides it from Ansley. The ground slopes fairly steeply to this brook, the extreme points being 554 ft. on the east boundary near Brown's Farm and 350 ft. at New Bridge<sup>2</sup> in the south.

Where the main road to Coventry descends Slowley Hill, there is a farm-house of plastered brickwork walls and tiled roof named Slowley Hill Farm. It is on the south-west side of the road, between which and the house stand two stone gate piers 8 ft. 6 in. in height, with ball finials raised above a cornice with a single mould. They are of the late 17th century and line up with the main block of the house, whose external features are of the 18th century. From the west side a wing projects forward, making the building L-shaped. It is plastered, with early-18th-century stone quoins on the angles. There is a blocked window of the 15th or early 16th century in the projecting wing, set close to the re-entrant angle at ground-floor level; it is about 3 ft. wide and is slightly less in height, of grey sandstone, and has a square head above two lights divided

by a mullion and treated with a single chamfered order.

An examination of the interior walls suggests that they are largely timber-framed. The whole of the interior was renovated in the mid-18th century, and the earlier features which remain consist of a cupboard with wrought iron strap-hinges, wainscoting in the room occupying the ground floor of the projecting wing—all in the small oak panels of the early 17th century—and the oak beam in this room, which has its edges rounded by an ovolo moulding with stopped ends.

The old L.M.S. Railway from Whitacre to Nuneaton crosses the parish from west to east, and has a station (Arley and Fillongley) where it crosses the Coventry-Tamworth road, in the south of the parish.<sup>3</sup>

In the early 18th century there were 33 houses in Arley, 20 of which kept teams, and 3 in Slowley.<sup>4</sup>

In the early 17th century there was a rudimentary poor-house in Arley 'commonly called the Church house', where three persons lived. In 1630 it was in decay, and the churchwardens and overseers were ordered to repair it or to provide alternative accommodation.<sup>5</sup>

The parish boundaries can be roughly equated with those named in a charter of 1001 of King Ethelred,<sup>6</sup> in which Arley is described as a portion of Itchington. The south-west and northern boundaries, along the Bourne and two smaller brooks respectively, are clear. The long *dic* and the old *weg* may be the Bourne Brook and its tributary from near Brown's Farm, and the road from the southern end of Ansley village to Gun Hill.

ARLEY was assessed at only 1 hide in MANORS 1086, when it was held by Cristine, sister of Edgar Atheling.<sup>7</sup> With her other Warwickshire estates it came into the possession of Ralph de Limesi; Dugdale suggests, without proof, that he became her husband.<sup>8</sup> The chief tenancy of the manor continued in this family till the reign of John, when Basile, one of the two co-heiresses of the Limesis, married Hugh de Odingsley.<sup>9</sup> This family, of Flemish origin, continued as overlords till the middle of the 16th century; in 1380 Sir John held view of frankpledge here.<sup>10</sup> In the late 13th century Ralph de Limesi granted the manor to his brother Richard and his heirs,

<sup>1</sup> Kelly's *Directory of Warwick*. (1936).

<sup>2</sup> Mentioned as such in 1647: *Warw. Co. Records*, vi, 77.

<sup>3</sup> There was a proposal in 1903 to construct an electric tramway from Coventry to Arley Station so as to give the town a

connexion with the Midland Railway: Fredk. Smith, *Coventry, 600 Years of Municipal Life*, 154-5. <sup>4</sup> Dugd. 106.

<sup>5</sup> *Warw. Co. Records*, i, 109.

<sup>6</sup> Kemble, *Cod. Dipl.* dcxv.

<sup>7</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* i, 341.

<sup>8</sup> Dugd. 103, 342. In fact she became a nun at Ramsey in, or about, 1085: Dugdale, *Mon. Angl.* ii, 506; Ordric Vitalis, *Hist. Eccl.* (ed. Prevost), iii, 399.

<sup>9</sup> Dugd. 342.

<sup>10</sup> *Chan. Inq.* p.m. 4 Ric. II, no. 18.



to be held of the Odingsels.<sup>11</sup> According to the Worcester Assize Roll of 3 Edward I,<sup>12</sup> Ralph was a descendant of Ralph and Hawise de Limesi by their son Geoffrey (not found in other pedigrees of the family); Dugdale<sup>13</sup> mentions this possibility but sets out a pedigree of the Odingsels showing him as son of Gerard de Odingsels, and suggests that he and his brother Richard took the name Limesi as grandsons of Basile, who was a great heiress; there is, however, no reason to accept this theory or to doubt the descent from Geoffrey. This branch of the Limesis held the manor as tenants of the Odingsels to about the middle of the 14th century. Richard's son Peter was granted free warren in his demesnes at Arley in 1310,<sup>14</sup> and in 1313 he was pardoned for his share in the killing of Piers Gaveston.<sup>15</sup> In 1316 and 1317 he was respectively a commissioner of array for Warwickshire and for inquiring into the illegal raising of bodies of men-at-arms and confederacies.<sup>16</sup> He took part in the rebellion of Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, for which he forfeited his estates, dying in 1325.<sup>17</sup> In 1322 an inquiry was ordered touching the persons who entered the estates late of divers rebels and in the king's hands through forfeiture, including Arley.<sup>18</sup> The year after Peter's death the manor was declared to descend to his son John, then aged 24, to be worth £10 13s. 4d. yearly, and to be held of John de Odingsels by the service of half a knight's fee.<sup>19</sup> John was the last of this branch of the Limesis.<sup>20</sup>

During the 14th century a branch of the Shropshire family of Corbet appears as tenants of the manor; they were related to the Odingsels by the marriage of Emma, widow of John de Odingsels (died 1336), to William Corbet,<sup>21</sup> and of Amice, daughter of Sir Roger Corbet, to John's son, another John, before 1335.<sup>22</sup> Sir Roger in 1328 settled property in Arley on himself and his wife Amice, with contingent reversion in tail to William, son of Thomas, Camville, or to Roger or Peter, sons of Roger Corbet of Caus.<sup>23</sup> In 1381 Sir Roger Corbet of Leigh died, holding a third part of the manor of Sir John Rochford.<sup>24</sup> This third, consisting of 8 messuages and 4 yardlands, though not described as a manor or part of one, was in possession of Thomas Corbet of Leigh at his death in 1420,<sup>25</sup> and as late as 1540 John Corbet and Anne his wife conveyed a 'manor' at Arley to Robert Grene, senior and junior, and William Grene.<sup>26</sup> When Robert Grene senior died in possession six years later, having settled it on his wife Margaret with remainder to his second son Thomas, it is more correctly described as a quarter of the manor of Arley. It was held of Edmund Odingsels as of the manor of Long Itchington.<sup>27</sup> The younger Robert Grene and

Dorothy his wife conveyed the 'manor', so called, to John Poley in 1553.<sup>28</sup>

The origin of the Rochford tenancy, which is first



LIMESI. Gules three eagles or.



ROCHFORD. Quarterly or and gules a border sable bezanty.



SCHEFFINGTON. Argent three bulls' heads erased sable.

mentioned in 1381 (see above), is unknown; possibly the Rochfords represented a senior co-heir of the Limesis and the Corbets a junior. Sir Ralph Rochford made a settlement of Arley and his other possessions in 1413,<sup>29</sup> as did his son Sir Henry before 1457.<sup>30</sup> In 1498 the manor was settled on Elizabeth Bygod, widow of Henry Rochford, for life, with remainder to her son Ralph Rochford and his issue.<sup>31</sup> In 1511 Ralph was in possession, but was a lunatic.<sup>32</sup>

By the marriage of Margaret, the Rochford heiress, to Thomas Skeffington early in the 16th century,<sup>33</sup> the manor came to the latter family, whose chief seat was at Skeffington (Leics.). The first definite mention of their lordship is in 1571,<sup>34</sup> when Thomas, grandson of the Thomas mentioned above, came of age, being possessed of the manor of Arley.<sup>35</sup> His two sons William, who was dealing with the manor in 1601<sup>36</sup> and died in 1605,<sup>37</sup> and John succeeded him in turn, and on the death of the latter in a brawl in 1613 the manor became divided amongst his four sisters and co-heiresses: Mary, who married William St. Andrew of Gotham (Notts.); Elizabeth, who married William Jeter or Jetter of Skeffington; Catherine, who married William Broome of Woodlow; and Ursula, who married Sir John Skeffington of Fisherwick (Staffs.).<sup>38</sup> The manor had been settled by Thomas Skeffington on himself at his marriage in 1577, with remainder to his wife Isabel (Byron) and his heirs, his son William making a similar settlement.<sup>39</sup> In 1616 William Jeter settled his fourth share of Arley and other Skeffington manors on himself and his wife and their issue, with contingent remainder to John St. Andrew, son of William, and Barbara his wife;<sup>40</sup> Catherine (Skeffington) with her son Robert Broome and her second husband Robert Barford, and Sir John and Ursula Skeffington were dealing with their quarters in 1633 and 1636 respectively.<sup>41</sup> Francis Thornhagh and his wife Elizabeth (St. Andrew, daughter of John and Barbara) with her sister Barbara were dealing with their share, termed a whole manor, in 1646,<sup>42</sup> and Barbara with her husband Oliver St.

<sup>11</sup> *Cal. Close*, 1323-7, p. 469.

<sup>12</sup> Wrottesley, *Pedigrees from Plea R.*

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.* pp. 103, 143.

<sup>14</sup> *Cal. Chart. R.* iii, 153.

<sup>15</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1313-17, p. 21.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.* p. 461; 1317-21, p. 96.

<sup>17</sup> *Cal. Close*, 1323-7, p. 469.

<sup>18</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1321-4, p. 156.

<sup>19</sup> *Cal. Close*, 1323-7, p. 469.

<sup>20</sup> Dugd. 103, 343.

<sup>21</sup> Clutterbuck, *Herts.* iii, 119.

<sup>22</sup> Dugd. 104, 343.

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.* 103. Cf. Nichols, *Leics.* iv, 694;

*Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xv), 1657.

<sup>24</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 19 Ric. II, no. 16.

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid.* 8 Hen. V, no. 45. His son

Thomas died between 1470 and 1480 and

was succeeded by his son Peter: Wrottes-

ley, *op. cit.* 452.

<sup>26</sup> *Feet of F. Warw. Trin.* 32 Hen. VIII.

<sup>27</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), lxxv, 79.

<sup>28</sup> *Feet of F. Warw. Trin.* 7 Edw. VI.

<sup>29</sup> *Cal. Close*, 1413-19, pp. 86, 96.

<sup>30</sup> Dugd. 104. Blomefield, *Norfolk*, ix,

109.

<sup>31</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xviii), no. 2763.

<sup>32</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), lxxviii, 39.

<sup>33</sup> *Limes. Pedigrees* (Harl. Soc. li), 829.

<sup>34</sup> About the time of the death of the last

Odingsels: Dugd. 343.

<sup>35</sup> *Ibid.* 106.

<sup>36</sup> *Feet of F. Warw. Hil.* 43 Eliz.

<sup>37</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cclxxix, 90.

<sup>38</sup> Nichols, *Leics.* iii, 450.

<sup>39</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cclxxix, 90;

*Feet of F. Div. Cos. Hil.* 2 Jas. I.

<sup>40</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cccxxv, 91;

ccccxxii, 117.

<sup>41</sup> *Feet of F. Warw. Hil.* 8 Chas. I.

<sup>42</sup> *Ibid.* Mich. 22 Chas. I.

John obtained possession of the Broome-Barford quarter seven years later.<sup>43</sup> They were dealing with this, in conjunction with Elizabeth Thornhagh, in 1655.<sup>44</sup>

The St. John quarter of the manor was in 1665 purchased by Anthony Sadleir, together with the manor-house.<sup>45</sup> His sons Anthony and Thomas both died without issue; on Anthony's death in 1698 his share of the manor went to his wife, an Italian from Naples, for life, and then to his sister Elizabeth, wife of the Hon. Myles de Courcy.<sup>46</sup> She held courts leet and baron at Arley in 1707,<sup>47</sup> and on her death in 1723 the lordship became divided between her son Gerald, Lord Kingsale, and Andrew Thornhagh, who had purchased the two remaining shares.<sup>48</sup>



DE COURCY. *Argent three eagles gules crowned or.*

Lord Kingsale died in 1759 without surviving male issue, his quarter of the manor descending to his daughter the Hon. Eleanor Elizabeth Ann de Courcy, who was joint lady of the manor in 1777 and 1793;<sup>49</sup> she died unmarried. The Vaughton family of Hamstead Park (Staffs.) were lords in 1789 and between 1794 and 1823;<sup>50</sup> in 1850 they were among the chief landowners of the parish, but the lordship at that date was divided between Charles Foulger and Mrs. Shaw,<sup>51</sup> neither of whom was resident, and in 1874 between Mrs. Foulger and the trustees of the late Thomas Shaw.<sup>52</sup> In 1900 Mrs. Foulger of Leamington was lady of the manor.<sup>53</sup> Mr. John Shaw's daughter married Mr. George Fowler, of Basford Hall (Notts.), who founded the Arley Colliery Co. in 1902 and lived at Arley Hall. On the death of his son Lt.-Col. G. Herbert Fowler in the war of 1914-18, the latter's two sisters, who had married two brothers named Ransom, succeeded to the estate; the younger Mrs. Ransom died in 1949.<sup>54</sup>

The priory of Maxstoke held a small property in Arley,<sup>55</sup> which was granted in 1538 to Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk;<sup>56</sup> he immediately sold it to Robert Trapps, a London goldsmith.<sup>57</sup> At the death of Nicholas, Robert's son (1545), this property is called a manor; it devolved on two infant daughters as co-heiresses, but has not been further traced.<sup>58</sup>

After the rebellion of 'the young King Henry' in 1174 land worth 40s. in *SLOWLEY*, held by Reynold de Eton, 'who was with the king's enemies', was seized.<sup>59</sup> This is probably the 2 virgates in Arley which Jordan de Eton disputed with Hugh de Bibbesworth in 1199,<sup>60</sup> eventually agreeing to hold of Hugh by a rent of 3s.<sup>61</sup> Reynold son of Jordan de Eton seems to have transferred his interest to Robert le Potter,<sup>62</sup> who in 1202 agreed to hold 'a moiety of the vill of Arley' from Hugh by service of  $\frac{1}{2}$  knight's fee.<sup>63</sup> The family of Bibbesworth were connected with the Limesis and Odingsels

by tenure, and possibly by blood.<sup>64</sup> Slowley is described as a separate manor in 1403, when it was held with Arley by Sir Ralph Rochford,<sup>65</sup> but otherwise figures only as a member of Arley. A family who took their name from this place occur from the early 13th century onwards;<sup>66</sup> in 1332 the two largest payments to the subsidy in Arley, 5s. each, were made by Sir Roger Corbet and Richard de Sloley;<sup>67</sup> and in 1421 a later Richard Sloley, son of Henry, held a messuage and land in Slowley in chief of the king by the service of giving a pole-axe to the king whenever he went with an army against the Scots.<sup>68</sup>

The parish church of *ST. WILFRID CHURCH* stands upon a slight mound. It is built of red sandstone and consists of chancel, aisleless nave with a south porch, and a west tower.<sup>69</sup>

The whole of the existing building appears to be of 14th-century construction, except portions of the north wall of the nave, which may be of 12th- or 13th-century date, and the modern porch, of half-timber construction with small three-light windows in each side and a tiled roof. The south wall of the nave has been refaced, its buttresses rebuilt, and portions of the window tracery removed. The whole church was restored in 1873.<sup>69</sup>

The nave roof, covered with lead, rises behind solid stone parapets on the north and south and terminates in a low-pitched gable, against which abuts at a lower level the tiled chancel roof; this is of steeper pitch and slopes down to projecting eaves, which have a plastered soffit. There are kneelers to the gable, each with gables, and a modern stone cross at the apex. The buttresses at the eastern angles terminate below eaves-level. The moulded plinth is carried round these buttresses and round the contemporary buttress on the south of the chancel, which has a gablet on its lower offset. A string-course links the sills of the chancel windows and is stepped up 12 in. before returning along the east wall at the higher level of the east window sill.

The east window of the chancel has three lights with cusped heads surmounted by trefoils; the mullions interlace to form three quatrefoil diamond shapes; the hood-mould is stopped against carved heads. In the north wall the easternmost window, of which the sill is raised a foot to accommodate the tomb-recess below it, has two cusped lights with three quatrefoils in the head, and a hood-mould. The middle window has two double-cusped pointed lights; and the western has two lights with trefoiled heads surmounted by trefoils, and over them a large inverted trefoil with spikes projecting between the lobes. The window opposite to this in the south wall is of the same 'Kentish' type, its sill stones much defaced by the sharpening of implements. Between this and the middle window, which resembles that opposite, is a small priests' door, ogee-headed, of one order consisting of a hollow moulding, with a hood-mould and finial; above it is a very small rectangular

<sup>43</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Trin. 1653.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid. Trin. 1655. <sup>45</sup> Dugd. 104.

<sup>46</sup> Ibid. <sup>47</sup> Ibid. <sup>48</sup> Ibid.

<sup>49</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations, Shire Hall, Warwick.

<sup>50</sup> Ibid.

<sup>51</sup> White, *Directory Warw.* (1850).

<sup>52</sup> Ibid. (1874).

<sup>53</sup> Kelly, *Directory Warw.*

<sup>54</sup> Information kindly supplied by Mr. H. L. Harrison, secretary to the Arley Colliery Co.

<sup>55</sup> Dugd. *Mon.* vi, 524.

<sup>56</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII.* xiii, 1182 (18 n.).

<sup>57</sup> Pat. 30 Hen. VIII. m. 4.

<sup>58</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), lxxi, 97.

<sup>59</sup> *Pipe R. Soc.* xxi, 143.

<sup>60</sup> *Curia Regis R.* i, 23.

<sup>61</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xi), 34.

<sup>62</sup> Anct. D. (P.R.O.), B. 106.

<sup>63</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xi), 123.

<sup>64</sup> *V.C.H. Herts.* iii, 31, 46. The arms of Bibsworth are given in 1352 (*Visit. of Eton*, Harl. Soc. 3) as *Azure* three eagles or; those of Limesis were *Gules* three eagles or. In 1297 Amabel de Limesis of Arley

confirmed to Thomas of Stretton Baskerville, chaplain, land in Slowley given to him by Osbert de Aula, late her husband: Add. Chart. 47982.

<sup>65</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. 5 Hen. IV. no. 37.

<sup>66</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xi), 293, 714.

<sup>67</sup> *Lay Subi. R.* (Dugd. Soc.), 33.

<sup>68</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. 9 Hen. V. no. 17.

<sup>69</sup> Cousins in his *Notes on Warwick. Churches* mentions a wooden vestry on the south side, built in 1756, which has since been removed.

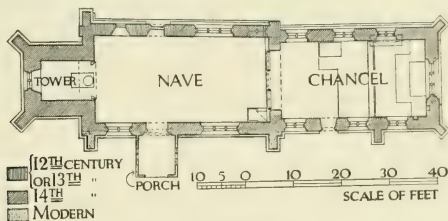
<sup>70</sup> H. Hobart Bird, *Old Warwick Churches*.

window. East of the buttress is a square-headed window of two cusped lights without a hood-mould. Internally the chancel walls are plastered above a dado of modern oak panelling. The chancel has a modern ceiling of painted boards in three equal facets, flat in the centre; the section above the altar is treated with gilding.

The chancel arch has been rebuilt and is two-centred with two chamfered orders dying on to flat jambs with chamfered edges.

A similar recess, or aumbry, exists in the east wall, south of the altar.

Under the north-east window of the chancel is a 14th-century recess; the arch is pointed, with two segments, and the angle is treated with two hollow moulds separated by a fillet. Its hood-mould, which has been restored in modern times, is heavily crocketed and has a finial which breaks free of the sill above. In the recess is the effigy of a priest on a coffin-shaped slab, 6 ft. 4 in.



PLAN OF ARLEY CHURCH

In the nave the easternmost window in the north wall is square-headed with two uncusped, ogee-headed lights; it is set with its sill 10 ft. above floor level, no doubt to light the original roof-loft. To the west of this, at a lower level, is a window of three cusped lights, having a hood-mould without stops. The next window is square-headed and probably had two lights, but the mullion and tracery have been removed. Below it is a doorway, now blocked, with a two-centred head, the angle treated with a hollow chamfer which is carried round without impost; the hood-mould, which has returned ends, is 10 in. distant from the edge of the arch. The jambs of this doorway rest on an offset from a second plinth, which runs along this north wall and is possibly 13th-century work. Beyond the doorway is a window with a semicircular head, which shows signs of having lost its tracery and is of doubtful age. In the south wall the eastern window is of three lights, like that opposite to it; the western is similar, but of two lights. Between the two is the modern porch, covering the doorway, which is a plain arch with a two-centred head and is of two chamfered orders. The stonework of the walls of the nave is exposed to a height of 4 ft. 6 in., above which it is plastered. The nave has a modern flat ceiling, surrounded by wide coves.

The tower is divided into two stories by a string-course and finishes in an embattled parapet with small pinnacles at the angles<sup>70</sup> and a gargoyle projecting on the north side. The diagonal buttresses each have four offsets, finishing at the level of the belfry windows. There is a window in each wall of the belfry; each is of two chamfered orders and of two cusped lights with ogee heads; that in the south wall has a small slit window beneath it. Below the string-course the only external opening is the west window, of two lights in a two-centred head; the tracery is all modern.

In the south wall of the sanctuary is a recess (presumably originally a piscina) with a head in the form of a pointed cove and straight jambs, 1 ft. 5 in. in height.

by 2 ft. 1 in. and 1 ft. 9 in. He is in Mass vestments; his head, with short curls and a rather small tonsure, rests on two cushions supported by twin angels. His pointed shoes rest against a dog.<sup>71</sup> The figure is probably that of the rector at the time of the rebuilding of the chancel. Near by, built into the east wall, are a number of fragments of the marble tomb of Jane St. Andrew (died 1620), formerly on the north side of the chancel.<sup>72</sup>

The north-west window in the chancel is filled with 14th-century glass, much of which appears to be in its original position. Each light contains two figures, one above the other, against a background of diamond-shaped diapering and vine and oak leaves; the upper figure in the eastern light is the best preserved, the others being largely made up with odd fragments.

Across the chancel arch is a modern oak screen in three bays, the central open; it has a carved oak canopy of decorative vaulting, with cresting and, in the centre, a large crucifix. The furnishings, including the sandstone font, are modern.

The belfry, to which there is no stair, contains three old bells: 1, by Robert Newcombe, c. 1590; 2, by Watts, 1625; 3, by Edward Arnold of Leicester, 1790.<sup>72a</sup> Three others were added in 1929.

The registers begin in 1557.

The first mention of a church at ADVOWSON Arley is in 1282, when the rector was exempted from purveyance for the army in Wales.<sup>73</sup> Up to the end of the 13th century the advowson was with the Odingsels as superior lords of the manor;<sup>74</sup> it was, however, separated from the manor and was held of Hugh by his cousin William de Odingsels in 1295 when he and his son Edmund died, the latter leaving four sisters as co-heirs.<sup>75</sup> In 1311 the Crown presented as guardian of the heir of John de Grey of Rotherfield, son-in-law of William de Odingsels,<sup>76</sup> and in the same year it was stated that the advowson was held of Sir John de Odingsels *per*

<sup>70</sup> Added in 1789; *Cossins*, loc. cit.

<sup>71</sup> *Birm. Arch. Soc. Trans.* xlix, 33, and pl. xii, fig. 1.

<sup>72</sup> *Dugd.* 105, where it is figured.

<sup>72a</sup> *Tilley and Walters, Church Bells of Warwick*, 101.

<sup>73</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1281-92, p. 7.

<sup>74</sup> *Dugd.* 104.

<sup>75</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* iii, 286.

<sup>76</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1307-13, p. 396; *Nichols, Leics.* iv, 636.

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

*antiquitatem*.<sup>77</sup> In 1349 Sir John Clinton of Maxstoke, grandson of another son-in-law of William de Odingsels, was patron,<sup>78</sup> and in 1388 on the death of Sir Robert de Grey of Rotherfield it was stated that the patronage was exercised alternately by him and Sir John Clinton.<sup>79</sup> Elizabeth, Lady Clinton, widow of the latter, who was previously the wife of Sir Robert, was stated to hold the advowson in dower by gift of the latter.<sup>80</sup> The male line of the Greys died out with him, and their share of the advowson passed by marriage to Sir William, Lord Lovel of Titchmarsh,<sup>81</sup> who died seised thereof in 1455.<sup>82</sup> After the forfeiture of Finnerl, last Lord Lovel, for his support of Lambert Simnel in 1487,<sup>83</sup> the advowson seems to have remained with the Clintons till 1517, when the feoffees of Thomas, Lord Clinton, presented after his death.<sup>84</sup> By 1554 the advowson had come to the Aston family,<sup>85</sup> and so continued up to at least 1598, when there was a crown presentation owing to the minority of Walter Aston.<sup>86</sup> In the 17th century fourth shares of the advowson were included in conveyances of similar fractions of the manor,<sup>87</sup> but probably in error. From 1687, when Thomas Leigh presented,<sup>88</sup> it passed through a variety of hands till reunited with the manor under the Vaughntons from 1815.<sup>89</sup> In 1850 and 1859 Roger Vaughton was patron and incumbent.<sup>90</sup> In 1900 and 1915<sup>91</sup> Mrs. Parker was patron, and from 1924 Mrs. Ransom and Mrs. D'Oyly Ransom.<sup>92</sup>

The rectory was valued at £4 in 1291<sup>93</sup> and £90s. 6d. in 1535.<sup>94</sup>

In 1357 Richard de Caldeford was licensed to grant tenements in Arley to Robert de Sekyndon, parson of the church, for a collect to be said every day in Arley church for the soul of Robert Norreys.<sup>95</sup>

Richard Avery in 1703 charged **CHARITIES** Butlers Farm, in Arley, with the annual payment of 20s. to be distributed to the poor of the parish in bread.

Thomas Avery at a date unknown gave £5, the interest to be distributed on 25 October to the poor of the parish in bread.

Anthony Sadler at a date unknown gave £5, the interest to be distributed on Christmas Day to the poor.

James Dufresnoy at a date unknown gave £10 to the poor.

Thomas Avery at a date unknown gave £3.

The Reverend Arthur Miller in 1779 gave £100, the interest to be given to needy and poor people of the parish on Christmas Day and Whit Sunday.

Henry Shakespear by Indenture dated 26 July 1803 caused £200 Consols to be settled on trust, one moiety of the income to be distributed in bread to needy and poor persons of this parish on Christmas and Lady Day.

The above-mentioned charities are regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 4 April 1913 under the title of the Consolidated Charities. The scheme appoints a body of trustees to administer the charities and directs the annual income of the charities (amounting to £9 10s.) to be applied under various heads for the general benefit of the poor of the parish.

John White. An Indenture dated 30 October 1660 recites that by a Deed Poll dated 21 September 9 James I, certain land in Arley was conveyed to the persons named, upon trust that the profits should be employed according to the devise and intent of John White, viz. to pay yearly to the churchwardens of Fillongley 6s. 8d. and the like sum to the churchwardens of Arley to the uses of their churches and, after the fifteenths and tenths due for the said lands should be discharged with part of the profits thereof, the residue to be evenly parted to the use of the churches of Fillongley and Arley. The land was sold in 1905 and the proceeds of sale invested. By a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 9 April 1907 the endowments were divided under the respective titles of White's Fillongley Church Charity and White's Arley Church Charity. The scheme appoints a body of trustees to administer each charity according to its provisions. The annual income of White's Arley Church Charity amounts to £56 (approximately).

## ASHOW

Acreeage: 1,080.

Population: 1911, 140; 1921, 124; 1931, 152.

The parish lies on the River Avon between Kenilworth and Stoneleigh. The river forms the northern half of the east boundary of the parish and then turns abruptly west, with the former hamlet of Bericote<sup>1</sup> on the south and the village of Ashow on the north bank. The village, consisting of a small group of thatched timber-framed cottages of the late 17th or early 18th century, lies to the north of the church, which overlooks the Avon, on a branch from a road running southwards from Coventry to strike the road from Cubbington to Kenilworth which forms the southern boundary of the parish. Most of the parish

lies about the 200 ft. contour, with heights of 260 ft. at the south-eastern and north-western angles. It is heavily wooded, The Grove, near the Avon opposite Stoneleigh Abbey, being probably part of Ashow Wood mentioned in 1200 (see below); Thickthorn Wood, on the west, and Bericote Wood on the south of the river, are each of considerable extent.

At the time of the Domesday Survey there were two mills (on the Avon) at Ashow, worth 20s.<sup>2</sup> and one, worth 4s., in Bericote.<sup>3</sup> The rights of fishing in the river were also of value and are often alluded to. Early in the 13th century the monks of Stoneleigh granted to Robert de Withlakesford the fishing of a weir in

<sup>77</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v. p. 194.

<sup>78</sup> Dugd. 104; Nichols, *Leics.* iv. 636.

<sup>79</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. 12 Ric. II, no. 24.

<sup>80</sup> *Ibid.* 2 Hen. VI, no. 36.

<sup>81</sup> G.E.C. *Complete Peerage* (2nd ed.), iv.

125-7.

<sup>82</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. 33 Hen. VI, no. 28.

<sup>83</sup> G.E.C. op. cit. viii. 227.

<sup>84</sup> Dugd. 106.

<sup>85</sup> *Ibid.*; Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2),

xcxlviii. 16.

<sup>86</sup> Dugd. 106.

<sup>87</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Hil. 8 Chas. I, and

Trin. 1653.

<sup>88</sup> Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.).

<sup>89</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>90</sup> White, *Directory Warw.* 567; *Clergy*

*List*, 1859.

<sup>91</sup> Kelly, *Directory Warw.*; *Clergy List*,

1915.

<sup>92</sup> Crockford 1926; and information from the Rev. Canon M. J. G. King.

<sup>93</sup> *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 242.

<sup>94</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii. 80.

<sup>95</sup> Chan. Inq. a.q.d. ccxiv. 10.

<sup>1</sup> This was apparently already depopulated by about 1540; Dugd. 268.

<sup>2</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* i. 325.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.* 324.



'Nethlihommes', opposite his grange;<sup>4</sup> and in 1427 Alice, widow of John Knyveton, had a free fishery in the Avon between 'Alfredfordbrugge' and Chesford Bridge,<sup>5</sup> on the border of Leek Wotton.

Among the estates of Turchil in 1086 *MANORS* were 2 hides in *ASHOW* which he had himself held under the Confessor but were now held of him by Ermenfrid.<sup>6</sup> As was the case with most of Turchil's estates, the overlordship came to the Earls of Warwick.<sup>7</sup> A mesne lordship was held by the family of Verdon from early in the 13th century, Rose de Verdon holding it in 1242<sup>8</sup> and Theobald de Verdon in 1279.<sup>9</sup> On the death of Theobald dower was assigned in 1317 to his widow Elizabeth, including this fee,<sup>10</sup> and in 1361 it was assigned to William de Ferrers, son of Isabel wife of Henry de Ferrers, daughter and co-heir of the last Theobald de Verdon.<sup>11</sup> William Ferrers of Groby died seised thereof in 1371,<sup>12</sup> and on the death of his son Sir Henry it was assigned in 1389 to his widow Joan,<sup>13</sup> on whose death in 1394 it passed to their son William,<sup>14</sup> after which time there appears to be no reference to this mesne lordship.

Ermenfrid, the Domesday tenant of Ashow, held also in Calcutt in Grandborough<sup>15</sup> and Radford (Semele)<sup>16</sup> and was in each place the predecessor of the family of Semilly. In 1200 William de Esseho (i.e. Ashow) gave the king 40s. so that the wood of Ashow, which was common to him and to William de Semilly, might be divided so that each should have his share, because of the waste which William de Semilly had made of the whole wood.<sup>17</sup> This William was succeeded here by Geoffrey de Semilly,<sup>18</sup> who in 1221 was fined for disseising of his pasture rights Master Henry de Cerne,<sup>19</sup> who had been presented to the rectory of Ashow in 1215 by King John, when the Priory of Kenilworth was vacant and in the king's hands.<sup>20</sup> Geoffrey held a half-fee of the Earl of Warwick in Ashow in 1235<sup>21</sup> and in 1242,<sup>22</sup> when it is said to be in Ashow and Calcutt and held of Rose de Verdon, who held of the earl. By 1279 William de Semilly and the Abbot of Stoneleigh were joint lords of Ashow, holding of Theobald de Verdon and doing suit to his court of Brandon.<sup>23</sup> William's son Geoffrey had succeeded by 1299,<sup>24</sup> and two years later he alienated to Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, all his wastes and woodlands in this lordship between the Avon and the Frith of Kenilworth, called Widenhay, his deed being confirmed by Richard Basset and his wife Esyllia, Geoffrey's mother.<sup>25</sup>

Geoffrey left a son John,<sup>26</sup> who is probably the John Semilly of Warwickshire mentioned in 1342.<sup>27</sup> He seems to have been the last male representative of the family and to have left several co-heirs, as in 1360 the fee was held by John de Hokeley 'and others',<sup>28</sup> after which no more is heard of it.

In 1086 Tonne held 2 hides in *BERICOTE* under Turchil, whose father Alwin had held it under the Confessor; the estate included a mill worth 4s.<sup>29</sup> This apparently later escheated to the Crown, as Henry II gave the manor and mill, valued at 100s., to his serjeant Boscher to hold by service of looking after a white brachet (hound) with red ears and at the end of the year returning the brachet to the king, receiving another to bring up and half a quarter of meal. From Boscher it passed to his son Henry,<sup>30</sup> who conveyed it to Stephen de Segrave. Stephen (who died in 1241) granted Bericote with its chief messuage, woodland, villeins, &c. to Stoneleigh Abbey, to be held by a rent of 100s., which rent his son Gilbert remitted for the support of one monk; and these grants were confirmed in 1265.<sup>31</sup> The abbey received a grant of free warren here in 1284<sup>32</sup> and was returned in 1279 as having 4 acres of wood inclosed as a park.<sup>33</sup> The monks had also lands in Ashow itself.<sup>34</sup> The whole of their property in the parish seems to have been included in 1291 under Bericote, where the monks had a plough-land worth 15s., rents producing £1 3s. 10d., 8s. from two mills and 10s. from the fishery.<sup>35</sup> About the time of the Dissolution the Ashow property of the abbey was worth some £10 yearly, in addition to £4 13s. 4d. rent for Bericote Grange,<sup>36</sup> though the fulling-mill at Bericote had fallen down by 1547.<sup>37</sup> The whole of this property was granted in February 1542 to Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, who at the same time was licensed to alienate the water corn-mill in Ashow and Bericote Grange.<sup>38</sup> This he did to Mathew Wrottesley, who conveyed the same to Thomas Marrowe in 1549.<sup>39</sup> By Marrowe it was sold to John Harreyoun, of whom it was bought in 1582 by Sir Thomas Leigh,<sup>40</sup> who had already acquired the abbey 'manor' of Ashow in 1562,<sup>42</sup> after which it became attached to the Stoneleigh estate of the Lords Leigh.

The Priory of Kenilworth also held land in the parish, their founder Geoffrey de Clinton having given them a meadow called Ruggenhale.<sup>43</sup> The canons were receiving £3 from Ashow in 1291,<sup>44</sup> but only 49s. 4d. in 1535.<sup>45</sup>

<sup>4</sup> *Cat. Anct. D.* iii, D. 182.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.* i, B. 142. Cf. *ibid.* B. 140; *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xviii), 2612, 2682.

In 1279 William de Semilly had held the Avon from 'Alsiseforthe' to the bridge of 'Shesford' in severalty; *Exch. K.R. Misc. Bks.* 15, fol. 32.

<sup>6</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* i, 323.

<sup>7</sup> *Bk. of Fees*, 955; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, p. 406; *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 2 Hen. IV, 40, 58.

<sup>8</sup> *Bk. of Fees*, 955.

<sup>9</sup> *Dugd.* 266; *Exch. K.R. Misc. Bks.* 15, fol. 31.

<sup>10</sup> *Cal. Close*, 1313-18, p. 419. Cf. *Cal. Inq. p.m.* vii, p. 498.

<sup>11</sup> *Cal. Close*, 1360-4, p. 223. Cf. *Cal. Inq. p.m.* x, p. 312.

<sup>12</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 45 Edw. III, no. 22.

<sup>13</sup> *Cal. Close*, 1385-9, p. 557.

<sup>14</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 17 Ric. II, no. 24.

<sup>15</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* i, 320.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.* 323.

<sup>17</sup> *Rot. de Obl.* 62; *Pipe R. Soc. N.S.* xii, 184.

<sup>18</sup> William de Simili and Julian his wife, and Geoffrey his heir, and William son of Henry the knight of Ashow (probably the William de Esseho just mentioned) gave woodland to Stoneleigh Abbey: *Anct. D.* (P.R.O.), D. 3596. The two families seem to have been closely connected, as William de Semilly and Henry de Heshesho, knights, made a joint exchange with the monks of Stoneleigh of meadow in Ashow: *Cat. Anct. D.* iii, D. 218.

<sup>19</sup> *Roll of Justices in Eyre in . . . Warw.* (Selden Soc.), 537.

<sup>20</sup> *Cal. Chart.* (Rec. Com.), 205.

<sup>21</sup> *Bk. of Fees*, 507.

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid.* 955.

<sup>23</sup> *Dugd.* 266; *Exch. K.R. Misc. Bks.* 15, fol. 31.

<sup>24</sup> *Cat. Anct. D.* i, B. 134.

<sup>25</sup> *Dugd.* 266.

<sup>26</sup> *Cat. Anct. D.* ii, B. 3471.

<sup>27</sup> *Cal. Fine R.* v, 273.

<sup>28</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* x, p. 512.

<sup>29</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* i, 324.

<sup>30</sup> *Bk. of Fees*, 1278. Henry's mother Christine gave to the monks of Stoneleigh the fee farm of the mill of Bericote: *Anct. D.* (P.R.O.), D. 7547.

<sup>31</sup> *Cal. Chart.* R. ii, 52.

<sup>32</sup> *Ibid.* 273.

<sup>33</sup> *Dugd.* 268; *Exch. K.R. Misc. Bks.* 15, fol. 30.

<sup>34</sup> See above, n. 18.

<sup>35</sup> *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 255.

<sup>36</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 67; *Mon. Angl.* v, 450.

<sup>37</sup> *Mon. Bailiffs' Accts.* (Dugd. Soc. ii), 6.

<sup>38</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xvii, 137 (22, 57).

<sup>39</sup> *Dugd.* 268. Cf. *Cal. Pat.* 1548-9, p. 87.

<sup>40</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cxl, 181.

<sup>41</sup> *Dugd.* 268.

<sup>42</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1560-3, pp. 20, 321.

<sup>43</sup> *Dugd.* 266, from the Register of Kenilworth.

<sup>44</sup> *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 254.

<sup>45</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 65.

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

The parish church of *THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY*, dating from the early part *CHURCH* of the 12th century, is situated on the north bank of the River Avon, a little to the south-west of the village. It has a small churchyard with a wide-spreading yew-tree near the entrance. It consists of a chancel, nave, and west tower. Both the nave and chancel have tiled roofs of fairly steep pitch. The chancel and nave are early-12th-century, and the square tower was added about the middle of the 15th century. The tower has a moulded plinth which is continued round the buttresses. It rises in three stages, with a battlemented parapet and the broken remains of pinnacles at each angle. It is built of red sandstone ashlar with angle buttresses in four stages terminating at the base of the parapet wall, similar buttresses at right angles butt on to the west wall of the nave. The west door has a pointed arch with a deep moulded splay which continues down the jambs to a splayed stop, and a label with return ends. Above is a two-light pointed window with cinquefoil tracery, of two splayed orders with a hood-moulding. Above this is a loop-light to the circular tower staircase, with splayed head, jambs, and sill, and over it the belfry window, which is similar to the one below. The belfry windows repeat on the north, south, and east, that on the east being blocked with brickwork and partly covered by the nave roof. There are two loop-lights to the stair on the south side, and clock faces are on the north and west sides only. The north wall of the nave is built of red sandstone in coursed rubble with ashlar dressings and splayed plinth, and has two small early-12th-century round-headed windows. In the centre of the wall there is a blocked late-12th-century doorway, with a segmental head and foliated capitals almost entirely obscured by thick ivy. The north wall of the chancel is also of coursed rubble and has one round-headed window similar to those in the nave wall. Near the west end is a blocked low-side window with deeply splayed head, jambs, and sill. The east gable wall is constructed of ashlar, probably refaced when the 15th-century window was put in, which is a three-light with cinquefoil tracery, with a pointed arch and hood-moulding, all much restored. There is an angle buttress at the south-east corner only, probably part of the 15th-century work. The south wall has a square-headed two-light window of two splayed orders, probably inserted at the end of the 16th century. Near the west end is a blocked low-side window, slightly larger than that on the north side. The south aisle wall has been entirely rebuilt in light-coloured sandstone ashlar with wide shallow buttresses at each end, probably late in the 18th century. There are two windows of two lights with splayed jambs and four-centred arches with plain tracery and a central door with a three-centred arch having a plain chamfered edge. The whole of the interior has been rendered all over with a thick coat of plaster, lined out as ashlar, which obscures all the details.

The chancel (19 ft.  $\times$  17 ft. 6 in.) has an early-12th-century wall arcade on both sides, of four semicircular arches supported on corbels which may be capitals with the shafts missing, as there are traces of attached shafts at the eastern ends, but all detail is hidden under the plaster. The 12th-century window has wide-splayed reveals, the east window is slightly splayed, the pointed

arch following the external one. The south window has splayed reveals and flat head, as on the outside. The chancel arch is semicircular and not of the full thickness of the wall. It has what appears to be a splayed abacus on the south side and a capital with an engaged shaft on the north, but here again all detail is hidden by plaster. The plaster ceiling, of very flat pitch, has traces of moulded trusses with carved bosses showing through the plaster. There is one step to the altar and the floor is paved with stone.

The nave (46 ft.  $\times$  21 ft.) has a flat matchboarded ceiling fixed just below the level of the wall-plate, concealing an open timber roof. The two 12th-century windows have widely splayed reveals with semicircular arches. The south windows have splayed reveals with arches following the external ones. The tower arch is lofty, of two splayed orders, and is filled in with a modern screen to form a west porch. The seating of box-pews, pulpit, reading-desk, chancel dado, and altar table are all of late-18th-century workmanship in oak. The pulpit, placed on the north side of the chancel arch, is octagonal and supported on a short central octagonal shaft with a curved splayed capital. It is panelled with moulded and fielded panels and has bands of carved fret at the top and bottom. Modern square legs have been added for additional support. The font is modern, of gothic design. It is placed near the west end on the south side. The floor is paved with stone slabs.

The tower (8 ft.  $\times$  8 ft.). The west door has square reveals with a square head, the south-west angle is splayed for the tower circular staircase in the thickness of the wall, its doorway has a pointed arch of a single splay with moulded stops. The ancient door is made out of a single plank, two inches thick, with plain strap-hinges, an iron ring with an octagonal plate and a semi-elliptical escutcheon with poppy-head in relief at the top. On the north wall is painted a list of charities, and hung on the south wall is a painted coat of arms of George III. The floor is of modern red tiles.

There are several mural tablets, but none earlier than the 19th century.

The plate, silver gilt chalice, ciborium, and paten with hall-mark 1638, was given by Alice, Duchess Dudley. There is also a modern silver chalice.

There are four bells by John Briant of Hertford, 1793.<sup>46</sup>

The parish registers begin in 1733, the earlier registers having been converted into spills by a former parish clerk who was a publican.<sup>47</sup>

In the churchyard, a little south of the chancel is the base of a cross with an octagonal shaft and base resting on two square steps. The base is slightly moulded and the top step has splayed stops at the corners. Only the lower course of the shaft remains, with a modern moulded capital added.

The church of Ashow was originally *ADFOUWSON* a chapel of Leek Wotton (q.v.), which church had been given to Kenilworth Priory at its foundation by Geoffrey de Clinton. It became independent in the time of Bishop Geoffrey (1198-1215), subject to the payment of a pension of 20s. to Kenilworth,<sup>48</sup> which was still being paid in 1535. The rectory was valued at £3 6s. 8d. in 1291,<sup>49</sup> and at £6 2s. in 1535.<sup>50</sup> The advowson remained with Kenilworth until the Dissolution, and since

<sup>46</sup> Tilley and Walters, *Church Bells of Warws.* 101.

<sup>47</sup> *Birm. Arch. Soc. Trans.* xix, 94.

<sup>48</sup> Dugd. 267.

<sup>49</sup> *Tax. Ecl.* (Rec. Com.), 244.

<sup>50</sup> *Valor Ecl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 69.



ALLSLEY CHURCH, c. 1820



ASHOW CHURCH, c. 1820





ASTLEY CHURCH: INTERIOR, LOOKING EAST



ASTLEY CHURCH, c. 1820

1562<sup>51</sup> has been in the hands of the Leighs of Stoneleigh.

The charity of Alice, Duchess Dudley, *CHARITY* for Ashow and other parishes in the counties of Warwick and Northampton is regulated by schemes of the Charity Commissioners dated 13 June 1879 and 6 January 1885. The scheme of 13 June 1879 appoints a body of trustees and provides for the income to be divided by the trustees

into seventeen equal parts and remitted to the incumbents and churchwardens of the several parishes for application by them in accordance with the provisions contained therein. The share of the charity applicable for this parish consists of one-seventeenth of the income, amounting to £37 13s. 4d. annually, to be applied under various heads for the general benefit of the poor of the parish.

## ASTLEY

Acreage (since 1932): 2,430 (199 acres transferred to Bedworth under Warwickshire Review Order, 1932).

Population: 1911, 377; 1921, 448; 1931, 304.

The parish of Astley is situated between the parishes of Arley and Bedworth. Its southern boundary is formed by the Bedworth-Fillongley road; it then runs north-west along Breach Brook, afterwards cutting across country towards Arley till it reaches a small tributary of the Bourne Brook, where it turns north, reaching the parish's most northerly point, the L.M. & S. Railway tunnel between Arley and Nuneaton. The boundary then turns south-east and passes within a quarter of a mile of the Castle, joining the Bedworth road by Cowley Wood, and running eastwards for a mile down the River Sowe, completing the circuit past Astley Colliery at Bedworth Heath.

The west side of the parish consists of high ground over 500 ft. above sea-level, which steadily slopes down towards Bedworth on the east. It consists of open country,<sup>1</sup> with a number of small patches of woodland. Two roads, that from Fillongley running north-east to Stockingford, and that which runs north-west from Bedworth to Ansley, intersect at a point 200 yds. south of the small village, consisting of Church, Castle, School, and a few brick and tile cottages, and these together with the tall trees of the park and churchyard form a pleasant group dominated by the large bell tower.

Astley Castle is situated 60 yds. north-east from the church. It is surrounded by a moat with banks 10-15 ft. in height. The bailey is in the form of a circle drawn out towards the north-east, increasing the diameter in that direction from approximately 60 yds. to 80 yds. The average width of the present moat is 10 yds., but, if it originally spanned the full width between banks, it would have an average width of double that amount.

There are only scanty remains, in grey and red sandstone, of the original curtain walls and gatehouse. Some portions appear to be 14th-century work<sup>2</sup> but may date from 1266, when Warin de Bassingburn was granted licence to inclose his house at Astley with a dyke and a wall and to crenellate it.<sup>3</sup>

The bailey is level with the surrounding country, and the present edifice is built on the west side with its principal elevation slightly south of east, and its out-buildings lining the west curtain wall. It consists of two main stories with attics above, and the roofs of lead and tile are partly concealed behind embattled parapets. The work of every century, from the 15th onwards, appears to be represented.

The brick chimney-stacks, rising above the parapet on the south side, are of late-16th or early-17th-century design and the shafts of the individual flues are bound together by a continuous capping supported by over-sailing brick courses.

The main entrance is marked by a single-storied porch which projects from the northern half of the eastern façade. This front is in two stories, it is of stone, and the embattled parapet is continuous. The windows fall into three groups, that to the south having two four-light mullioned windows with square heads<sup>4</sup> at the first-floor level and two similar though somewhat deeper windows below them; there is a horizontal string-course at first-floor level across the width of this window group only. At the north end of the front there is a similar group, but the entrance reduces the lower south window to only two lights. In the centre there are five—two above placed centrally over three below; these all have four-centred heads, the upper ones each have three lights with tracery in the heads and are both grouped under a single hood-moulding, the ends of which return vertically downwards and stop on carved heads. The three windows below, though narrower, seem to have been similar, but the mullions have been removed to accommodate modern french windows. This portion of the façade is of the 15th century and evidently formed the nucleus for later extensions.<sup>5</sup>

A stone gargoyle protrudes immediately to the south of the hood-mould described above.

The porch, although of the late 16th or early 17th century, appears to have been built after the adjoining main walls, for its north wall, which is without openings, slants inwards to admit light to the entrance hall by means of the small two-light window encroaching on its width. The east and south walls have large openings, that to the east being square-headed and of two plain chamfered orders, the head being constructed of three stones held in line on a heavy wrought iron bar of square section and contemporary workmanship over the 6-ft.-wide opening. There is an oak lintel behind the iron bar supporting the remaining thickness of masonry. The 4-ft. opening on the south side has a four-centred head framed in by the square head of the outer order. The oak door to the entrance hall is studded and has shaped 16th-century strap-hinges.

The northern façade consists of three gables which abut the end of the main façade wall, the parapet of which ends abruptly. It is of early-19th-century brick-work plastered over, with sash windows of the same

<sup>51</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1560-3, p. 321.

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Thomas in 1730 wrote, 'The Parish lies in a deep soil and a fast inclosed Country': Dugd. 119.

<sup>2</sup> Described by F. B. Andrews in Alice Dryden's *Memorials of Old Warwickshire* as of 13th-century foundation.

<sup>3</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1258-66, p. 648.

<sup>4</sup> The northerly one contains traceried heads and is modern. The others in the group appear to be 16th-century and are without tracery. All are of two chamfered orders.

<sup>5</sup> There is a vertical joint in the masonry immediately to the south of this portion and signs of extension to the north; the façade treatment does not return and continues beyond the north-east angle of the building.

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

period. The opposite end, facing nearly south, consists of two portions; that to the east has a horizontal embattled parapet which returns round from the main front and bears the date 1627 carved on the centre merlon; that to the west is some 6 ft. higher, and the parapet steps up between them. The former has a string-course at first-floor level, with a four-light square-headed mullioned window above, and a six-light window with central major mullion below, its upper portion blocked by masonry and the lower covered by a modern glass conservatory. The portion to the west has a four-light window of similar type but modern workmanship above and a modern timber casement below, and there is no string between them. There is a single buttress reaching to first-floor level immediately to the east of the timber casement, which has weathered offsets. A string-course carries through unbroken above the heads of the first-floor windows wherever the embattled parapet occurs round the building; and on the south-west façade an additional buttress reaches this upper string in line with the step in the parapet.

The western front, overlooking the moat, presents a haphazard group consisting of (a) a stone wing forming the southern half, and carrying an embattled parapet which returns back at both angles; it bears traces of 16th- and 17th-century masonry although the openings have mainly been modernized; (b) a lower 16th-century half-timber wing ranged against it on the north side, being partly rendered in plaster; and (c) a 19th-century addition of brick returning round the north-west angle. Half of this frontage is skirted by a long, narrow yard, which divides the main building from a line of derelict 18th- and 19th-century outbuildings.

The interior has lost much of its original character, as extensive alterations appear to have been made about 1800.<sup>6</sup> The entrance hall and passage-way at its rear are lined with small 17th-century oak panels, but the passage-way gives access to a large square hall, two stories in height, wholly re-decorated in the early 19th century, the only original feature being a fine six-light mullioned and transomed window overlooking the moat in the rear elevation; it is of lofty proportions and the transom is set high to give greater height to the lower lights, the upper three being approximately square. A landing beneath the window takes the double return flights of the staircase, which is modern, and under it a doorway leads to the kitchen quarters. The back stair is original and of the 16th century; each baluster is turned, and each square newel terminates in a turned ball-finial.

To the south of the entrance hall are two reception rooms; the first, opening on to the lawns by the three french windows, is modern in treatment; the second, which reaches to the south-east angle of the building, possesses a large early-17th-century fire-place with an original cast-iron bushel-grate. It consists of a moulded opening with a four-centred head containing leafy enrichments in the spandrels; above is a strap-work frieze with an ovolo-moulded cap over, all of stone. The surround is of panelled oak, with four rectangular panels over the stonework, the two in the centre containing semicircular heads filled with shell enrichment, and those on the outsides each contain two diamond shapes side by side. The frieze above is jewelled and terminates in two lions' heads supported by fluted Ionic pilasters from the floor level. The whole measures

7 ft. 5 in. high by 8 ft. long. Opposite the fire-place a door gives access to the conservatory.

On the north side of the entrance hall is a single reception room with an early-19th-century oak fire-place surround, with large interlaced diamond patterns and fluted pilasters somewhat in the early-17th-century manner; Dutch tiles surround the fire-place opening. A fourth reception room leads from the staircase hall into the south-west angle and contains early-17th-century panelling, a group of panels on the north wall being enriched with decorative circles containing fans, with foliage, strap-work, and other carving.

The rooms on the upper floors are of little interest, having all been modernized, and the roof timbers above the attics are concealed above the plaster ceilings.

Of the whole area within the moat the half lying towards the north-east is banked up from the moat with wooded slopes, whilst the other half, which includes the present buildings, is bordered by stone retaining walls, the lower portions of which may date from the 14th century or earlier. Opposite the porch a 60-ft. length of sandstone walling rises above the level of the lawns and borders the moat. It contains mainly the lower portions of three ancient windows, probably of the 14th century, and it terminates at the jamb of a fourth at its north-eastern end. They are of varying width and their jambs are faced towards the moat with two chamfered orders; the sills are stepped on the opposite side. Only one has a head, and this is but a wooden lintel, probably added in later years to carry over a course of masonry.

A gateway on the south side, 8 ft. wide, is built within the line of the moat. It has a four-centred head, and on the south side two heavy chamfered orders which, together with the jambs and abutments, appear to be 14th-century work, but the north side of the arch has been recently refaced. The stone bridge leading to it has a semicircular arched opening of a single order and modern embattled parapets of grey sandstone, and is now disintegrating. On the west side is a stone doorway, which seems to have been rebuilt in modern times above the springing level; it leads by means of a path alongside the moat to the yard at the rear of the house.

On the opposite side of the site there are the remains of a secondary bridge of timber added for convenience during the 18th or 19th century. The decking has been removed. It originally gave access to the spinney on the opposite bank. Between this and the irregularly shaped lawn lies a formal garden of parterre work, which takes the form of a circle, 80 ft. in diameter, and is split up by narrow walks into circular and triangular flower-beds. These are edged by low, trimmed box hedges, and a higher holly hedge of considerable age, which has recently been cut down, formed the perimeter. An 18th-century sundial of bronze set upon a shaped stone pedestal forms the centre feature.

Beside the ruined wall, described above, there is a large, ancient yew-tree, and a line of yews follows the border between the parterre and the yard gateway. A fine cedar-tree adorns the park close by the moat, and beyond it the parkland slopes down to a large pool to the east. This 'Little Park' was formed about 1500 by Thomas, Marquess of Dorset, who inclosed 30 acres of his demesne lands; he also enlarged the Great Park, no longer existing, with 18 acres in Astley and 90 acres in Arley.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>6</sup> W. Niven, in *Illustrations of Old Warwickshire Houses*, mentions alterations

at the end of the 18th century.

<sup>7</sup> Dugd. 112; Leadam, *Domesday of*

*Inclusions*, 451, 663.

At a point 75 yds. north-west of the moat is a large, grass-covered mound 20 yds. in diameter. In the north corner of the same field (which also adjoins the north side of the churchyard) there are a number of artificial ridges.<sup>8</sup>

The lane to How Green from the village passes close by the site of a 'tumulus' on the west side, which has recently been levelled out, and after passing the hamlet it reaches Astley Court and Astley Lodge, the former recently damaged by fire. Astley Lodge is an 18th-century house. Running north-east from it is a track which leads to Breach Oak Farm, a 16th-century farmhouse constructed in timber with brick infilling and tiled roof, with a large brick chimney-stack treated with a double tier of round-headed sunk panels. The interior is of little interest.

Towards the east corner of the parish, close to the Bedworth boundary and the colliery, lies Astley Hall Farm, a late-18th-century house with a fine yew-tree close by.

In the vicinity of the church a track half a mile in length running west reaches Duke's Farm. It has a farm-house which has been extended and completely renovated in the 19th century. The roof is tiled and some of the walls are framed in timber as can be seen where the plaster, which covers the walls, has fallen away in places. From the farm-yard on the north side the main chimney-breast can be seen, the lower portion of which consists of ancient masonry, perhaps 16th-century work. No other feature, internal or external, has survived.

Approximately 200 yds. on the south side of this track there are the remains of the hollow oak-tree in which the Duke of Suffolk was reputed to have taken refuge. Beside the rotting remains of an ancient tree-trunk, and on the spot where the tree stood until blown down in 1891, there is now a sandstone monument, with an inscription recording the fact.

Astley was held freely by Alsi in the reign of Edward the Confessor; after the Conquest

Robert, Count of Meulan, held 1 hide, with Godric as tenant.<sup>9</sup> Like most of the Meulan manors in Warwickshire it came early into the possession of Robert's brother Henry de Newburgh, later Earl of Warwick.<sup>11</sup> In 1166 Philip de Estlega held three knight's fees, of which Astley was one, of William, Earl of Warwick, *de vetero feffamento*,<sup>12</sup> the service being described in 1316 as that of holding the earl's stirrup whenever he mounted his horse.<sup>13</sup> His descendant, Thomas de Estleye, who was killed at the battle of Evesham (1265), held the manor, which was stated to be worth £15, of the Earl of Warwick at a rent of £5 10s. 6d.<sup>14</sup> After his death his lands were granted to Warin de Bassingburn, to be held of the same overlord for the same rent.<sup>15</sup> By the Dictum of Kenilworth, however, de Montfort's adherents were allowed to compound for their estates by from two to five years' rental,<sup>16</sup> and in 1266 Andrew, Thomas's son and heir, was

restored to the king's peace<sup>17</sup> and received royal confirmation of the grant to him by Warin de Bassingburn of part of his lands.<sup>18</sup> Astley is not specifically mentioned in this grant, but in 1285 he was allowed free warren and view of frankpledge, gallowes, weyf, and assize of bread and ale,<sup>19</sup> and in 1300 he held the manor, which contained 20 free tenants, of the Earl of Warwick by the service of a knight's fee; he also held 6 other manors of various overlords in Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, and Warwickshire.<sup>20</sup> In the same year Edmund de Bassingburn brought an assize of *mort d'ancestor* against Andrew for the manor of Astley, but was not successful.<sup>21</sup> Andrew's son Nicholas was in 1316 stated to hold the manor of the Earl of Warwick by the service of 14 knight's fees with (Hill) Morton, Milverton, and Marston (Jabbett).<sup>22</sup> He was taken prisoner at Bannockburn and died without issue, being succeeded by his nephew Thomas,<sup>23</sup> who in 1326 was confirmed in possession of the manor, held by knight's service of Guy, Earl of Warwick.<sup>24</sup>



ASTLEY. *Argent a cinquefoil ermine.*



GREY OF RUTHIN. *Barry argent and azure with three roundels gules in chief.*

The overlordship of the Earls of Warwick and the tenancy of the Astley family still continued in 1400<sup>25</sup> and 1407.<sup>26</sup> Astley and Milverton together rating as one knight's fee. The last of the male line of the Astleys was Sir William, who died in 1420.<sup>27</sup> His daughter and heiress Joan was at that time married to Reynold, Lord Grey of Ruthin,<sup>28</sup> into whose family the manor passed until the middle of the 16th century. She was his second wife, and on his death in 1449<sup>29</sup> the manor descended to her son Sir Edward Grey,<sup>30</sup> who married Elizabeth, granddaughter and heiress of William, Lord Ferrers of Groby, of whose estates he was given seisin in 1445.<sup>31</sup> In 1472 Edward Grey 'of Astleye', Sir Edward's second son, was granted a general pardon for all offences committed by him before 24 August, and restored in his lands.<sup>32</sup> Two years later he was created Lord Lisle,<sup>33</sup> and in 1484 was granted the manor of Astley, then worth £44 10s., for his good service against the rebels,<sup>34</sup> on the attainder of his nephew Thomas Grey, Lord Ferrers and Marquess of Dorset.<sup>35</sup> The latter was restored to his estates on the accession of Henry VII by Act of Parliament.<sup>36</sup> In 1515 he granted a lease of Astley and other manors to Henry Stafford, Earl of Wiltshire,<sup>37</sup> who in the same year made a settlement of this lease.<sup>38</sup> Thomas, Marquess of

<sup>8</sup> An aerial photograph might reveal the layout of the collegiate buildings.

<sup>9</sup> So marked on the O.S. map, but as the lane is called Windmill Lane it was probably a mill-mound.

<sup>10</sup> *V.C.H. Warwick*, i, 315.

<sup>11</sup> Dugd., 18, 106.

<sup>12</sup> *Red Book of Exeter*, 326.

<sup>13</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, 615 (p. 408).

<sup>14</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* i, no. 928.

<sup>15</sup> *Cal. Chart.* R, ii, 56.

<sup>16</sup> Dugd., 108, 246.

<sup>17</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1258-66, p. 670.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 615.

<sup>19</sup> *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 779.

<sup>20</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* iii, 638.

<sup>21</sup> Dugd., 109.

<sup>22</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, 615 (p. 405).

<sup>23</sup> Dugd., 109.

<sup>24</sup> *Cal. Close*, 1323-7, pp. 461, 464.

<sup>25</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. 2 Hen. IV, no. 58.

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.* 8 Hen. IV, no. 68.

<sup>27</sup> Dugd., 117.

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.* 11c.

<sup>29</sup> G.E.C. *Complete Peerage* (2nd ed.),

vi, 158.

<sup>30</sup> Dugd., 111.

<sup>31</sup> *Cal. Fine R.* xvii, 323.

<sup>32</sup> *Cal. Pat.*, 1467-77, p. 346.

<sup>33</sup> G.E.C. *Complete Peerage* (2nd ed.),

viii, 80.

<sup>34</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1476-85, p. 479.

<sup>35</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. 1 Ric. III, no. 12.

<sup>36</sup> G.E.C. *Complete Peerage* (2nd ed.),

iv, 329, note (c), 418.

<sup>37</sup> Close R. 6 Hen. VIII, 39.

<sup>38</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Trin. 7 Hen. VIII.



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Dorset, at his death in 1530 left a life interest in the manor of Astley to his widow Margaret, his son Henry being then less than 14 years of age.<sup>39</sup> This son, who later became Duke of Suffolk<sup>40</sup> and was father of Lady Jane Grey, took part in the rebellion of Sir Thomas Wyatt, forfeited all his estates, and was executed 23 February 1554.<sup>41</sup>

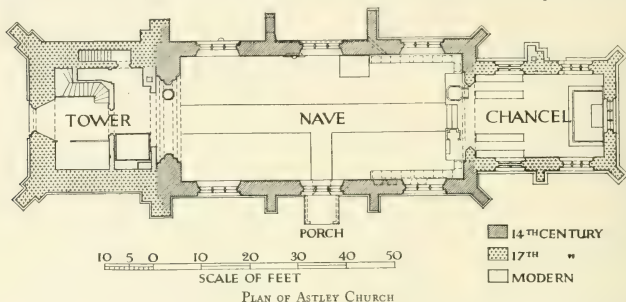
The manor was granted by letters patent to Edward Chamberlain, who died in 1557 leaving a son Richard, aged 9.<sup>42</sup> In 1573 Richard, having married Frances daughter of Richard Hussey of Coventry, the latter appears to have left the lordship or manor of Astley to his wife Elizabeth for life,<sup>43</sup> but the Chamberlaine

5th baronet, but the estates passed to Francis, the son of his cousin Millicent Parker, who assumed the name Newdigate,<sup>44</sup> and in whose family the manor continued. In 1936 the lordship was vested in the trustees of the late Sir Francis Newdigate-Newdegate, G.C.M.G., D.L., J.P.<sup>45</sup>

Two water-mills in Astley are mentioned in documents of 1625,<sup>46</sup> 1627,<sup>46</sup> and 1657.<sup>47</sup>

The parish church of *ST. MARY THE CHURCH VIRGIN* was completely rebuilt by Sir

Thomas Astley in 1343 as a collegiate establishment. This was a cruciform building<sup>48</sup> with a central tower crowned with a tall spire, which was a



family was in possession all through the 17th century. In 1625 Richard Chamberlaine senior and junior and Edward Chamberlaine leased the manor to Thomas Cole;<sup>44</sup> by 1630 Richard Chamberlaine had settled the manor on his children in tail male successively,<sup>45</sup> and in 1653 Richard Chamberlaine the elder and Jane his wife settled it on their son Richard.<sup>46</sup> Further leases were made in 1657 to Francis Bluett and Thomas Wood,<sup>47</sup> and in 1663 to Thomas Mede.<sup>48</sup> Thomas in his edition of Dugdale (1730) states that Edward, Richard's son, died 'lately' without issue, presumably before 1711, when Sir Richard Newdigate and other members of his family were dealing with the manor.<sup>49</sup> It is stated<sup>50</sup> that the purchase of Astley Castle was made by Sir Richard Newdigate, the first baronet, who died in 1678, but no date is given.<sup>51</sup> The Newdigate family had owned Arbury in the adjacent parish of Chilvers Coton since early in the 17th century.<sup>52</sup> The Newdigate baronetcy became extinct in 1806 with the death of Sir Roger,



NEWDIGATE. *Gules three lions' passus rased argent.*

conspicuous landmark and was known as the 'lanthorn of Arden'.<sup>53</sup> It had a chapel on each side of the chancel. But of this church only the chancel remains, for Adrian Stokes, who held the estate after his wife's death in 1558, pulled down the spire and stripped the roofs of their lead, so that the tower fell down about 1600.<sup>54</sup> Richard Chamberlaine in 1607 demolished the remains of the tower, the transepts, and the nave. He then converted the old chancel into the nave of his church, building a tower at the west end and a new chancel, for which he is said to have used the material of the northern chapel.<sup>55</sup> His work is remarkable for its adherence to the Gothic tradition.

The present chancel was completed in 1608, that date being recorded on a stone high up on the south side. The walls are of grey sandstone,<sup>56</sup> with a plinth which stops against the east wall of the nave. There are diagonal buttresses at the east end and a central buttress on the north and south, that on the north having been enlarged in recent times to accommodate a flue for a fire-place. The side walls have a pierced arcaded parapet and a cornice enriched with bosses, largely consisting of plain shields. Other shields of grey stone, carved with heraldic devices, adorn the outside of the walls. On the east wall are three, of which Chamberlaine and Grevill,

<sup>39</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), liii, 16.  
<sup>40</sup> G.E.C. *Complete Peerage* (2nd ed.), vi, 421.

<sup>41</sup> Dugd. i, 13 states that the duke took refuge at Astley after the failure of the rebellion, and was hidden by a servant in a hollow tree 'about two bow shoot south-westwards from the church'.

<sup>42</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cxiii, 16.

<sup>43</sup> Ibid. cxlvii, 75.

<sup>44</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Trin. i Chas. I.

<sup>45</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccclxiii, 150.

<sup>46</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Hil. 1653.

<sup>47</sup> Ibid. Trin. 1657.

<sup>48</sup> Ibid. Hil. 14-15 Chas. II.

<sup>49</sup> Ibid. Trin. 10 Anne.

<sup>50</sup> *Compl. Baronetage*, iv, 89.

<sup>51</sup> White, *Directory Warwus.* (1850), states that the manor came into the possession of the Newdigate family 'in the last [i.e. 18th] century'.

<sup>52</sup> *F.C.H. Warw.* iv, 176.

<sup>53</sup> *Compl. Baronetage*, iv, 90.

<sup>54</sup> Kelly, *Directory Warwus.*

<sup>55</sup> *Recov. R. Trin.* i Chas. I, ro. 25.

<sup>56</sup> Ibid. Mich. 3 Chas. I, ro. 46.

<sup>57</sup> Ibid. Trin. 1657, ro. 46.

<sup>58</sup> The plan has been reconstructed by H. E. Brown in 1941. It is exhibited in the church.

<sup>59</sup> Dugd. i, 13.

<sup>60</sup> Ibid.

<sup>61</sup> Ibid., and see description of chancel below.

<sup>62</sup> Described locally as Attleborough stone.

Lord Brooke, are identifiable; and four on each of the side walls, of which, in the absence of tinctures, only Ferrers of Groby can be recognized.<sup>63</sup> The east window and the two at the east ends of the side walls are each of three lights with four-centred heads; the two at the west ends of the side walls are each of two lights and have two-centred heads. The tracery is rectilinear in design and the external jambs of all these windows are similarly moulded in the form of a wide casement between small rolls and chamfers; they have plain external and internal hood-moulds, slightly shaped internally at each apex to meet the surface of the ceiling; several of the stops to the external hood-moulds on the north side are left boasted for carving. The two-light windows have been blocked by masonry in their lower portions as a backing for the modern oak choir-stalls, and the tracery above is filled with plaster. There is a blocked doorway in the north wall immediately to the east of the centre buttress; it is concealed internally by the oak panelling, but externally the filling is recessed, exposing the ovolo-mould which runs unbroken round the jambs and the four-centred head. It was evidently designed to admit the Chamberlains direct to their pew.

Little of the masonry of this chancel is identifiable with earlier remains, except the stone string-course<sup>64</sup> running along the sills of the windows on the north.

The chancel is roofed with tiles and contains internally a four-centred barrel-vault with traceried panels, all of plaster.<sup>65</sup> Above the modern oak panelling the walls of the interior are plastered.

The chancel arch of 1608 is four-centred and moulded without capitals or imposts. It was cut through the east wall and window of the former chancel and above its apex is visible from the west side the two-centred moulded head of the 15th-century window. This was of seven ogee-headed lights and typical rectilinear tracery, subdivided by small embattled transoms and additional vertical bars. The two centre mullions diverge to form pointed arches against the sides of the main arch, each containing three lights with their tracery, and the centre light between these sub-arches is spanned by the largest of the transoms; the whole has been plastered between the bars. On the nave side it has a hood-mould with three grotesque heads, one at the apex and the other two stopping the mould well above the springing in order to accommodate a canopied image-niche on either side. These have slender gabled canopies with crockets and the bases below are corbelled out on more grotesques.<sup>66</sup> From the east side the space above the chancel arch is limited by the barrel-vaulted ceiling of the chancel; it is covered by stone tracery forming ogee-headed panels in the plaster. As the line of these panels slopes up to meet the barrel-vault, they may well have been formed out of tracery from the lower part of the window. Further signs suggest the main transept level and below that the position of the sill,<sup>67</sup> 6 ft. above the floor of the nave. Externally there is an ogee-hood and an arch-mould of two moulded orders.

The nave, built in 1343, is divided into three bays, each 21 ft. wide, marked externally by two slender buttresses to north and south which are carried up to the eaves with its corbel-table. The similar diagonal buttresses at the east end are carried up above the eaves as pinnacles, but the pinnacles have been removed from the side buttresses. Supporting the pinnacles are gabled tops and the offset below each is also gabled.<sup>68</sup> The upper gables contain a variety of carved figures, those below contain shields,<sup>69</sup> each with the cinquefoil of the Astleys, and the slopes of each gable stop on to carved heads.

In each bay is a three-light window in a two-centred head with ogee-headed hood-moulds, the point of the ogee, externally, being carried up to the corbel-table, where the foliated finial spreads out into the hollowed chamfer in the form of a central boss. Internally the finial reaches the timber roof, 45 ft. above the nave floor. The lights are trefoiled and the tracery is of varied curvilinear, almost flamboyant, design, of which there are two variations which occur alternately down each side.<sup>70</sup> The interior jambs are plain and slightly splayed; the exterior splays are moulded. There is a moulded string-course externally at sill level passing round the buttresses and stepping down just west of the angle buttress from 10 ft. 9 in. to 4 ft. 4 in., which was the sill level of the original east window. Below the middle window on the south is a small porch of timber-framing on a wall of brick, 3 ft. high, with diaper patterns, probably added in 1608, or later in that century; its roof is tiled.

In the central bay on the north the masonry, for a height of approximately 7 ft. from the ground, is cut back 6 in.,<sup>71</sup> indicating the former existence of the chapel referred to in 1493 as 'the new chapel of Our Lady';<sup>72</sup> the doorway to this from the nave has been blocked up with masonry, but the ogee head and crocketed hood-mould remain internally.<sup>73</sup> A second doorway pierced the base of the buttress to the west, and although now blocked, the shape of its two-centred segmental head can be seen on both sides, on the west—originally the external—face, the head is chamfered, with a drip-mould and relieving arch over. A single corbelled head, heavy and crude in workmanship, projects at a level of 2 ft. below the sill of the north-west window.<sup>74</sup> The external plinth is formed of a steep splay and drip with a round fillet above.

The hollow of the corbel-table contains a series of enrichments spaced out on each side of each hood-mould finial. The different motifs are frequently repeated and include, beside ball-flower and similar motifs, shields with the arms of Astley, Beauchamp, and Clinton.

The tile roof is of about 50° pitch and the east gable has a crocketed parapet leading up to an apex-stone with its finial now broken; and above the blocked east window is a rose window, also blocked with plaster except for small vent-holes. This contains eight radiating lights, slightly pointed, with trefoiled heads around

buttress faces are slightly chamfered upwards.

<sup>72</sup> Nicolas, *Testamenta Vetusta* (will of Edward, Viscount Lisle); cf. Dugd. 113.

<sup>73</sup> External signs are covered by the plastered surface.

<sup>74</sup> It may perhaps be Saxon, and from the remains of an earlier church in the neighbourhood.

<sup>63</sup> These shields are described in Dugd. 119.

<sup>64</sup> This string has a 14th-century moulding and, unlike those on the south wall, stops short of the diagonal buttress.

<sup>65</sup> There are six painted shields on the white plaster ground.

<sup>66</sup> The niches may perhaps be earlier than the window.

<sup>67</sup> Where the width of the window ex-

ceeded that of the arch.

<sup>68</sup> Second buttress from the west on the north side has an additional plain offset 7 ft. from the ground.

<sup>69</sup> The angle buttress contains no shield in its lower gable.

<sup>70</sup> The opposing windows being of the two different types in each case.

<sup>71</sup> A moulded line of corbels stretches across the wall, below which the two

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the circumference; the centre is a plain intersection of the eight tracery bars. The surround is chamfered, with the addition of a continuous hood-mould.

The chapel on the south side seems to have been that of the Holy Trinity, the building, or enlargement, of which was ordered in the will of the first Marquess of Dorset (1501) but was only performed after the death of his son in 1530.<sup>75</sup> It appears to have been gabled, with its roof running at right angles to the nave walls, and the double slope of the intersection can be traced, with the position of the apex shown by a groove<sup>76</sup> cut into the front face of the buttress immediately to the east of the porch. Grooves indicating the two sloping lines can also be traced down to where they crossed the window jambs and where purlins have evidently been supported at the level of the sills.

There are no signs of any doorway on the south side other than that within the south porch. This has no drip-mould externally and may have opened into the annex. Internally the jambs are splayed, whilst the external jambs, running into the two-centred head without imposts, consist of one order with a hollow mould.

The panelled oak roof, probably of the 17th century, has twenty-one bosses painted with coats of arms; these were originally of the Astley family and their connexions, but in 1676 they were largely replaced by others connected with the Newdigates,<sup>77</sup> though the easternmost shield still bears the arms of Astley.

The walls of the nave interior are plastered, and as in the chancel retain their early-17th-century decorations of nine panels, framed with scrap-work patterns in various colours, containing edifying quotations. Seven of these are passages from the Bible; one of the Lord's Prayer; and one the Creed. Oak panelling, mostly plain, of the same period skirts the nave walls.

The western tower of red sandstone, built in 1607-8, is of four stories, of which only the lowest is distinguished externally by a string-course, which continues the line of that on the nave but is not carried round the buttresses. The upper stories are divided by two plain chamfered offsets, which line up with moulded offsets on the face of the buttresses. The latter rise to the sill level of the belfry windows, those to the west being diagonal and the eastern square. They consist of wide flat abutments extended by deeper and narrower projections. There are three offsets. The lowest stage is pierced only by the west door, contained by moulded jambs which carry up without imposts to the two-centred head. The mouldings are somewhat debased and appear to date from the reconstruction (1607), the external hood has carved stops and supports a carved apex-stone—all much defaced. The second story has in the north and south faces a small window of two lights, each two-centred and trefoiled, contained in a square head of three chamfered orders and no hood. In the west it has a larger window of three plain two-centred lights contained within a square head of three chamfered orders; the jambs have two chamfers only—an irregularity pointing to the re-use of windows from the former church and college buildings. It has a horizontal drip-mould extended to protect inset shields at either hand (described below). In each face of the third story is a tall transomed window of three trefoiled lights and

tracery of 15th-century type in a two-centred head; the jambs have two chamfered orders and, like the windows below, appear to have been re-used. The fourth stage is pierced on all four faces by a belfry window of two trefoiled lights with a square head; it has a transom and the jambs are moulded similarly to the three of the west door. These windows appear to contain little re-used masonry. The ovolo-moulded cornice which embraces the tower immediately above the window dates from the early 17th century. The embattled parapet above is crowned with pinnacles on the angles and central merlons, the latter on the west side bearing a carved stone shield with detail not discernible. Some of the pinnacles may well have been re-used after removal from four of the nave buttresses. On the west face there are a number of additional shields, two pairs<sup>78</sup> being set on either side of the third-story window with larger single ones below. Also one on each side of the window head below, that on the south much worn. Four carved grey-stone blocks are bonded into the wall above the west door, grouped on either side in pairs; each block depicts four vine-leaves and is probably 14th-century work. A set of three plain gargoyles project from the cornice on the north side; the only shield is placed in a central position towards the base, and is charged with a chevron between two roses in chief and (?) fleur-de-lis in base. On both north and south the western angles of the tower project beyond the buttresses, and are carried by 14th-century corbel-blocks a little below the nave corbel-table; the two corbels are carved as grotesques with bat-like wings. On the south face there are shields, two being over the centre window and one over the window at the base, the latter bearing the Astley cinquefoil; one of those above is similar and the other bears two bars and a chief indented. There is a modern clock dial immediately below the belfry, and on the face of the south-east buttress a stone block, bearing a scratch dial, has been inset; no stile remains, but the dial face, inclined slightly to the east, is grooved in the form of an inverted semicircle with small circular marks about the perimeter, the whole being indistinct.

The interior of the tower has been much altered by the provision of a modern vestry, approached by a stone stair, and an additional loft over, used as a ringing chamber. The latter is screened from the nave, a portion of the timber screen being glazed to admit borrowed light, and this is supported by the modern wall and two-centred arch built immediately to the west of the main tower arch. The vestry below it is lesser in extent, occupying the space to the west of an inner wall, although timber brackets allow it to project a little to the east of this supporting another glazed screen. At ground-floor level there are two store-rooms, one to the north under the staircase and one to the south of the vestibule. An ancient tower staircase commences in the north-west angle and is approached by a passage set in the thickness of the north wall. The 14th- or 15th-century tower arch is built up with jambs of three chamfered orders which rise without imposts to the two-centred head at the full height of the nave. Beneath this arch, and on the north side, stands the 14th-century octagonal font; the base is moulded and the font-stone has a moulded projection with the top embattled.

The east end of the nave is occupied by 15th-century

<sup>75</sup> Nicolas, *Traitément l'écusson*, 441, 631, 651. Cf. Dugli, 113, 117.

<sup>76</sup> In the centre bay of the north side

there is a groove which is horizontal at the level of the sill, suggesting a lean-to roof over the north chapel.

<sup>77</sup> Dugli, 117.

<sup>78</sup> Chamberlaine and (?) Hassey, and Chamberlaine and Greville.



oak stalls,<sup>79</sup> comprising nine seats on each side. Each seat supports a tall canopy, 11 ft. 6 in. in height, by means of slender posts; the back of each is formed by a painted panel depicting a Prophet or Apostle. Each row is subdivided into two ranges of four seats by means of a thicker post, and the odd seat backs upon the east return wall. The posts carry cinquefoiled arches corresponding to the seats below; the spandrels between them are pierced in the form of trefoils. The frieze above these arches is painted with a flowing vine and grapes on a red ground, and the cornice above is embattled and has carved rosettes in the hollow. The seats themselves are of the traditional type with misericords, carved on the under sides with representations of the wild boar, birds, human heads, &c.

George Eliot<sup>80</sup> has referred to the figures in the panels as: 'Apostles, with their heads very much on one side, holding didactic ribbons.' The 'ribbons' refer to the curved scrolls, inscribed with texts, which are held in the hands of Prophet or Apostle; one of these inscriptions bears the date 1624: they are in Old English and beneath can be discerned the original inscriptions in Latin.<sup>81</sup> The scrolls are arranged on alternate sides of the figures. The painting generally has lost much of its colour through decay and repeated 'touching up'.

Behind these stalls in the south wall three sedilia and a piscina have been found. They are completely concealed behind them<sup>82</sup> and all the original projections had been hacked off when the stalls were fitted.<sup>83</sup> The sedilia are each 1 ft. 4 in. wide and spaced out 2 ft. apart; the piscina is to the east at approximately the same spacing. The internal angles of the recesses are shafted and the heads carved with ribs. There are three breaks in the string-course 12 ft. 6 in. above the present floor level, these line up with the positions of the sedilia, suggesting that the latter once had tall canopies. The seats are 18 in. above the original floor level, which can be seen below the floor-boards. Here, and on the north side also, 14th-century tiles have been discovered *in situ* bearing similar shields to those enriching the corbel-table.

The communion table is of heavy oak with turned legs, probably of the early 17th century. The reredos is panelled with a cresting of scrolls and foliage. Both this and a portion of the communion rail appear to date from the later part of the same century, although the return ends of the rail are constructed in modern wrought iron and oak to match the older part in front. There is a triptych, apparently Flemish, of the 17th century, of which the central subject is the Deposition from the Cross, used as an altar-piece. At each side of the east window there are painted inscriptions giving the Ten Commandments.

Other furnishings and memorials in the chancel are of recent date and include brasses and marble panels commemorating members of the Newdigate family, also a pair of wrought-brass lampstands each bearing a pennant depicting the lion of St. Mark.

Fragments of 14th- and 15th-century glass have been collected in the chancel, both in the east window

and the one to the north. In the former there are parts of canopies in the heads of the three lights, and in both there is a tangle of diaper, drapery, and foliage in the form of oak- and vine-leaves; in the latter there are fragments of inscriptions, three yellow crosses on a red field, and above, a shield with the yellow figure of a boar. The glazing on the south side is modern.

Similar portions of ancient stained glass remain in the upper portions of the nave windows, most being on the north side, of which the centre consists of animal and human figures which have survived undisturbed except for a few broken pieces; the windows on either side contain animals' heads and portions of canopies, though one of these indicates the resetting of fragments. On the south side there are small heads remaining in the small tracery lights. A number of loose fragments have been discovered recently beneath floor boards.

On the south wall close by the tower are two wrought-iron brackets. One holds a painted cartouche of the Chamberlaine arm<sup>84</sup> and the other an ancient steel helmet surmounted by the Chamberlaine crest, of an ass's head and coronet, together 2 ft. 6 in. high. Both crest and cartouche are of carved oak.

The pulpit and reading-desk are of carved oak and of late-17th- or early-18th-century workmanship; they are square-panelled, enriched by baskets of fruit, garlands, and acanthus on the former and braided feathers on the latter.

At the time of its rebuilding in 1608 the church was rich in the monuments of the Greys, of which family Dugdale mentions four tombs comprising nine alabaster effigies.<sup>85</sup> Of these only three<sup>86</sup> have survived, and are now preserved in the south-east corner of the tower. The earliest is that of Sir Edward Grey, Lord Ferrers of Groby, who died in 1457. He is shown in armour of the period, with a collar of S.S., his bare head resting on a helm and his feet against a lion; both sword and dagger are broken away. The other two are women. One, now the centre of the group, is probably Elizabeth Talbot, wife of Edward Grey, Lord Lisle, who died c. 1483. She lies with her head on two cushions, with an angel on either side, her long hair down her back, and a rich chaplet round her head. She wears a kirtle cut low at the neck and with tight sleeves; a cote-hardi over it, and a mantle hanging from the shoulders. The third is probably Cecily Bonville, wife of Thomas Grey, 1st Marquess of Dorset. It has been badly damaged, apparently by the fall of the tower. She is shown wearing a pedimental head-dress, high-cut kirtle, cote-hardi, and mantle, at the corners of which were two little dogs.

Fixed to the north wall of the nave is the headless brass of a woman, with a fragment of an inscription in French giving the date of her death as 1 April 14-. The inscription was imperfect when the brass was crudely figured in Dugdale's *Antiquities*,<sup>87</sup> with three others of which only indents now remain. These were (1) a member of the Astley family, probably Sir Thomas who founded the college; (2) Elizabeth his wife, daughter of Guy, Earl of Warwick; and (3) Guy, their

<sup>79</sup> Described by F. T. S. Houghton in *Birm. Arch. Soc. Trans.* li, 19-28.

<sup>80</sup> In *Mr. Gilfil's Love-Story*.

<sup>81</sup> Described by F. T. S. Houghton and found to be similar to those at Kenton Church near Exeter.

<sup>82</sup> Seen by the writer when boarding had been removed for that purpose.

<sup>83</sup> Round about 1608, when they must

have been removed from their original positions (west end of chancel). Some of the original stalls may have been destroyed by the collapse of the steeple.

<sup>84</sup> The arms in this instance are: Gules an escutcheon argent within an orle of eight stars or. Elsewhere in the church, including the monument of Richard Chamberlaine (1654—Dugd. 117) they used a

coat of—Gules a chevron between three scallions or. The two coats are shown quartered in *Vivian's History of Warwick*, 1919 (Harl. Soc.), 258.

<sup>85</sup> Dugd. 113, 117.

<sup>86</sup> Described in detail by Mr. P. B. Chatwin in *Birm. Arch. Soc. Trans.* xlvii, 66, 84, 87.

<sup>87</sup> Dugd. 118.

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younger son, who died at Dunstable on the day of St. Nicholas (6 December) 1427. There was another brass, of which only the inscription remained, to Sir William, eldest son of Sir Thomas, who died in 1420.<sup>88</sup> On the west wall of the nave is a small inscribed brass to William Beck, 1623. Small slabs in the pavement against the east wall commemorate William Wyat (formerly precensor of Lincoln), 1685, and John (infant son of Richard Newdigate, 1666, whose monuments<sup>89</sup> have disappeared.

There are five bells: the tenor by Joshua Smith of Edgbaston, 1722; the others by Newcombe of Leicester, 1670.

The registers begin in 1670.

The first record of a priest in Astley *ADVOWSON* is in the reign of Henry III, when

Thomas de Astley presented a certain William, as stated in the course of a suit between his widow Edith and son Andrew regarding the advowson.<sup>90</sup> Andrew having assigned her his right of presentation on his restoration to his father's estates, though he stated in his defence that after this assignment he had presented his brother John.<sup>91</sup> The case arose through John being deprived by the bishop; Andrew in the end recognized Edith's right and gave her 40 marks for damages and costs.

The advowson remained with the Astley family till 1343, when Sir Thomas de Astley founded his college in the parish church, assigning the rectory to the dean.<sup>92</sup> The patronage of the deanery, and since the suppression of the college in 1545 of the vicarage,<sup>93</sup> has followed the descent of the manor.

The value of the rectory in 1291 was £6 13s. 4d.,<sup>94</sup> in 1536 £4 13s. 4d.<sup>95</sup>

William Beck in 1623 charged the *CHARITIES* property called Corley Ash, in the parish of Corley, with the annual payment of 6s. 8d. to this parish.

Unknown Donors charged the properties of Corley Hall Farm in Corley, and Sole End Farm and Howe Green Farm in Astley with the annual payments of the sums of 10s., 9s. 2d., and 5s. 4d. respectively.

Joseph Bond Eaves by will dated 18 December 1863 charged certain property at Wood End in the parish of Fillongley with the annual payment of £5 to the minister and churchwardens of Astley.

The above-mentioned charities are regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 7 February 1936 which appoints a body of trustees and directs the annual income of the charities, amounting to £7 10s., to be applied under various heads for the general benefit of the poor of the parish.

## BAGINTON

Acreeage:<sup>1</sup> 1,787½.

Population: 1911, 227; 1921, 237; 1931, 666.

The parish is bounded on the east by the River Avon and on the west by the River Sowe, and the presence of these streams accounts for the unusually large amount of 27 acres of meadow recorded in the Domesday Survey.<sup>2</sup> At a point where the Sowe makes a deep bend to the west the village, with the church, Rectory, and Hall, stands on a plateau some 70 ft. above the river. A little to the west of the church are the earthworks which mark the site of the former Castle. It was here that Henry, Duke of Hereford (afterwards King Henry IV), lodged before setting out to meet the Duke of Norfolk outside Coventry for the duel which King Richard II so ill-advisedly stopped;<sup>3</sup> and here the Earl of Northumberland was imprisoned after the Battle of Shrewsbury in 1403.<sup>4</sup> By Dugdale's time there were hardly any remains of the buildings visible.

The castle ruins consist of the basement of a rectangular building, probably 14th century, with a projecting stair-turret on the west and divided into five vaulted apartments, the responds still being in position. It is built of sandstone ashlar and the remaining walls are from 2 to 6 ft. high. As the site has only been partially excavated, further buildings may eventually be exposed. Except for traces of a moat on the south side, the outer defences seem to have been obliterated.

The village is small and most of the houses are

18th-century, built of red brick with tiled roofs, a few are much altered timber-framed structures.

The plateau on which the village lies was geologically suited for early settlements, some 30 ft. of glacial gravels and sands overlying sandstones and clays, thus providing a well-drained soil with plentiful water at a shallow depth. The upper sand and gravel have mostly been removed by quarrying, yielding a few palaeolithic implements and more of the neolithic period, the most important of these being a hand-axe, from the Craig Llwyd district in North Wales. A prehistoric track from North Wales to the Midlands is thought to have passed through Baginton. Isolated finds of a decorated beaker and a 'bucket urn' have been made, but no traces of actual settlement in the Bronze Age have been found.<sup>5</sup>

During the Roman period there was a settlement here lasting from the 1st to the 4th century, of which five wells, all lined with sandstone, have been discovered. This was followed by an Anglo-Saxon settlement, a cemetery of about the end of the 6th century having been found behind the Post Office. This yielded some 60 cremations and a number of inhumations, with the usual grave furniture and an exceptionally fine bronze hanging bowl.<sup>6</sup>

In 1086 there was a mill worth 10s. 8d. here,<sup>7</sup> and this is mentioned in later records<sup>8</sup> and was probably on the site of the Baginton Corn Mill, close to the bridge over the Sowe.<sup>9</sup> It is probably the 'Overcome myll'

<sup>88</sup> Dugd. 117.

<sup>89</sup> Ibid.  
<sup>90</sup> K.B. Writs and Returns (K.B. 138, no. 81). Cf. *Select Cases in the Court of King's Bench* (Selden Soc.), i, pp. cxlvi-cxlviii.

<sup>91</sup> Edith is said to have presented Stephen de Astley in 1285 (Dugd. 113), but this is not borne out by the record of the plea.

<sup>92</sup> *V.C.H. Warwick*, ii, 118.

<sup>93</sup> The living was a perpetual curacy, valued in 1786 at £10 (Bacon, *Liber Regis*,

214) till the latter part of the 19th century. The vicarage house was built in 1884 (Kelly, *Directory Warwick*, 1900).

<sup>94</sup> *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 241.

<sup>95</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 61.

<sup>1</sup> Owing to adjustments of the boundaries made in 1931 and 1932, the present extent of the parish is 2,018 acres: Kelly, *Directory of Warwick*, (1936).

<sup>2</sup> *V.C.H. Warwick*, i, 323.

<sup>3</sup> Dugd. 233.

<sup>4</sup> Wylie, *Henry the Fourth*, i, 368, 402.

<sup>5</sup> For the information in this and the following paragraphs we are indebted to Mr. John H. Edwards of Coventry.

<sup>6</sup> *Antiq. Journ.* xv, 109-12.

<sup>7</sup> *V.C.H. Warwick*, i, 323.

<sup>8</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ii, 560; *ibid.* vi, 624.

<sup>9</sup> The lords of Baginton had fishing rights in the Sowe from their mill as far as the ford of Peryford: Stoneleigh Leger Book, fol. 139 v.

owned by Francis Goodere in 1545,<sup>10</sup> when he also held the 'Netherwalke myll', or fulling-mill, which was 'below the place where the castle once stood'<sup>11</sup> and was still working in 1656.<sup>12</sup> It is not clear whether a water-mill called an 'edge tole mille', in the tenure of Edward Waye in 1545,<sup>13</sup> was another mill or if the corn mill had been temporarily converted for grinding tools.

The parish must formerly have been more wooded than now. In 1246 Robert de la Bruere was said to have assarted and stubbed a great part of the common,<sup>14</sup> and in 1539 Baginton was the main source of timber for St. Mary's College, Warwick, and there were coppices, saleable at 16 or 17 years' growth, worth £3 or £4 a year.<sup>15</sup> Of the existing spinneys, the Grove may be either the Mylgrove or Aishegrove, mentioned in 1545.<sup>16</sup>

In 1086 *BAGINTON* was among the *MANORS* estates of Turchil and was held of him by Alwin; it had been held before the Conquest by Archil and was rated at 4 hides.<sup>17</sup> The overlordship passed to the Earl of Warwick.<sup>18</sup>

Turchil's grandson, Henry de Arden, is said to have granted Baginton, which Roger de Wrenhale held of him and of his father Siward, to his sister Felice to hold by the yearly render of a hawk. The manor returned to Henry and was given by him in marriage with his sister Lettice to Geoffrey Savage.<sup>19</sup> It then descended with Badesley Ensor (q.v.)<sup>20</sup> and on the death of William Savage in 1258 passed to his nephew Thomas de Ednesor, being then held of Sir Thomas de Arden as half a knight's fee.<sup>21</sup> In 1279 Thomas de Ednesor had here in demesne 1 carucate and 1 virgate, his 12 freehold tenants having 11½ virgates, and 12 villeins the same amount; he had also a park of 4 acres, rights of free warren, a fishery in the Avon from Finford Bridge to the bounds of Stoneleigh, and on one side of the River Sowe; court leet, assize of bread and ale, and gallows. All of these liberties he claimed to hold by warrant of a silver cup that Henry I gave to Lettice daughter of Siward de Arden, who was his concubine,<sup>22</sup> and in 1285 he duly established his claim to them by prescription.<sup>23</sup> In the same year he died, leaving as coheirs his sister Amice, wife of Sir Walter de Miridene and previously of Andrew de Derleye, aged 50, and Richard de Herthill, grandson of his other sister Joan, aged 18.<sup>24</sup> Baginton was assigned to Amice, on whose death in 1302 it passed to Richard de Herthill.<sup>25</sup> He died in 1325, at which time he was said to have held the manor by service of going with the Earl of Warwick to wars in Wales at the earl's cost.<sup>26</sup> His grandson Sir Richard Herthill sold the manor to Sir William Bagot,<sup>27</sup> who was a strong supporter of Richard II but was later received into the favour of Henry IV and died in 1407.

Sir William left an only daughter Isabel, wife of Thomas Stafford, but in 1417 Baginton was sold to Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick.<sup>28</sup> His successor Richard Nevill, Earl of Warwick, with his wife the Countess Anne in 1471 conveyed the manor to the Dean and Chapter of St. Mary's collegiate church at Warwick,<sup>29</sup> in whose hands it remained until the college was dissolved in 1544. In 1535 the estate was yielding £24 14s. in rents,<sup>30</sup> and in 1539, when Thomas Cromwell tried to obtain the manor for William Nele, John Wetwood, the president of the college, replied that they could not spare it, as it was their only source of timber for repairs to their churches and houses, and also contained a stone quarry useful for the same purpose.<sup>31</sup>

In April 1545 the manor of Baginton, with all its appurtenances, was granted to Francis Goodere.<sup>32</sup> He died in December 1546, leaving a son Henry, aged 13.<sup>33</sup> When Sir Henry died in 1595 he had settled the manor on his daughter Frances and her husband (and cousin) Henry Goodere in tail male,<sup>34</sup> but they sold it in 1618 to William Bromley.<sup>35</sup> His son William suffered for his support of Charles I<sup>36</sup> and was knighted at the coronation of Charles II.<sup>37</sup> His son, also William, was a prominent politician, being Speaker of the House of Commons in 1709 and Secretary of State.<sup>38</sup> He died in 1732 and the male line ended with the death of his great-grandson William Davenport Bromley in 1810; his sister Lucy, wife of Capt. Cromwell Price, at her death in 1822 left the manor to her cousin the Rev. Walter Davenport,<sup>39</sup> who assumed the name of Bromley, and with whose descendants it has remained, the lord of the manor in 1948 being Brig.-Gen. Sir William Bromley Davenport, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.

Another reputed manor of *BAGINTON* was in the hands of Sir John Smith and Agnes (Harewell)<sup>40</sup> his wife in 1537,<sup>41</sup> and was held by their great-grandson Sir Francis Smith at his death in 1629,<sup>42</sup> when it passed to his eldest son Charles, later Viscount Carington. In this family it remained until at least 1745, when Anne, Viscountess Carington, was lady of the manor.<sup>43</sup> After her death in 1748 it was probably sold, Sir John Mordaunt appearing as lord in 1779 and Francis Seymour Conway, Marquess of Hertford, between 1787 and 1824,<sup>44</sup> after which date it has not been traced.

Henry de Arden gave to the canons of Kenilworth



BROMLEY. Quarterly fessewise indented gules and or an escutcheon argent with a griffin erect thereon.

<sup>10</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xx (1), 620 (28).

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.* 465 (99); *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), lxxv, 73.

<sup>12</sup> *Warw. Co. Recs.* iii, 333.

<sup>13</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xx (1), 465 (99). Cf. *Land Rev. Misc. Bks.* vol. 181, p. 101.

<sup>14</sup> *Assize R.* 952, fol. 98.

<sup>15</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xiv (2), 159.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.* xx (1), 620 (28).

<sup>17</sup> *P.C.H. Warw.* i, 323.

<sup>18</sup> *Cal. Close*, 1313-18, p. 278; *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 2 Hen. IV, no. 58.

<sup>19</sup> *Dugd.* 228, citing deeds in the possession of Arden of Parkhall.

<sup>20</sup> *P.C.H. Warw.* iv, 20.

<sup>21</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* i, 453. The half-fee had been in the hands of Ralph Basset of Drayton in 1242 (*Bk. of Fees*, 957).

Geoffrey Savage was under age; which may also explain the appearance of Robert de la Bruere in 1246 as 'chief lord of the fee of Baginton' (*Assize R.* 952, fol. 9 d.). If so, it must have been by arrangement with Hugh Dispenser, Geoffrey's grandfather, who obtained the custody of him and his lands in 1230 (*Exc. & Rot. Fin.* i, 205), and Geoffrey Dispenser, who had such custody in 1240 and 1245 (*Cal. Close*, 1237-42, p. 187; *ibid.* 1242-7, p. 300).

<sup>22</sup> *Dugd.* 229; *Exch. K.R. Misc. Bks.* 15, fol. 11 v.

<sup>23</sup> *Plac. de Quo. Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 784.

<sup>24</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ii, 560.

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid.* iv, 100.

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.* vi, 624.

<sup>27</sup> *Dugd.* 231, citing Bromley deeds.

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>29</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xviii), 2694;

*Cal. Pat.* 1467-77, p. 153.

<sup>30</sup> *Palor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 83.

<sup>31</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xiv (2), 159.

<sup>32</sup> *Ibid.* xx (1), 620 (28).

<sup>33</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), lxxxv, 73.

<sup>34</sup> *Ibid.* cxlvii, 88.

<sup>35</sup> *Dugd.* 233.

<sup>36</sup> *Cal. Com. for Compounding*, ii, 1139.

<sup>37</sup> *Dugd.* 233.

<sup>38</sup> *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

<sup>39</sup> *Cent. Mag.* 1849, pt. 1, 25-9.

<sup>40</sup> *P.C.H. Warw.* iii, 198.

<sup>41</sup> *Feet of F. Div. Co. Trin.* 29 Hen. VIII.

<sup>42</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cccclxviii,

110.

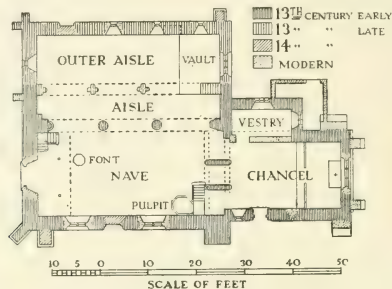
<sup>43</sup> *Gamekeepers' Deputations.*

<sup>44</sup> *Ibid.*

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Priory a meadow in Baginton, between the quarry and the ford of Flitenemede,<sup>45</sup> which gift was among those confirmed by Henry II.<sup>46</sup> Other lands in the parish were acquired by the canons and in 1291 their property here was yielding some 40s. in rents.<sup>47</sup> In 1538 they conveyed their Baginton property, exclusive of the advowson, to Thomas Staples for life.<sup>48</sup> After the Dissolution it was acquired by Joan (or Jane) Winter and her nephew Ralph Underhill,<sup>49</sup> and on 1 January 1552 was settled on Ralph and his wife Mary, and his heirs.<sup>50</sup> He died in 1555, when it passed to his brother Edward.<sup>51</sup>

The south wall of the nave is built of red sandstone rubble patched with ashlar and has a modern buttress near the west end. It has two modern tracery windows with two trefoil lights, pointed arches of two splays, and hood-mouldings. In the centre there is a 13th-century doorway with a roll-moulded pointed arch and jambs, blocked with masonry, and provided with a modern hood-moulding. At the east end is a very wide and massive buttress to take the thrust of the chancel arches, and there is an angle buttress at the west end. The west wall is of roughly coursed rubble with a plain coping to the gable. The west doorway is probably



The church of **ST. JOHN THE CHURCH BAPTIST** is situated  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles south of Coventry in a cul-de-sac on the western outskirts of the village, surrounded by a large churchyard. The church consists of chancel, nave, a double north aisle, vestry, and bell-turret. It dates from the early 13th century, with the addition of a second north aisle, probably about the middle of the same century. It presents some unusual and interesting features, a double aisle, duplicated chancel arches, and a bell-turret built on the east wall of the nave.

The east wall of the chancel has two modern buttresses and the upper part of the gable is rebuilt in red sandstone ashlar. The east window, which is a modern restoration, has a triple lancet with moulded arches supported on attached shafts with moulded capitals and bases. On the south side at the west end there is a narrow low-side square-headed window, splayed all round. Close to this window is a 13th-century doorway with a moulded pointed arch with a hood-moulding, supported on half-round shafts with moulded capitals and bases; the shafts, capitals, and hood-moulding are recent restorations. A lancet window with a hood-moulding has its glazing, but is blocked on the inside. The wall is built of red sandstone rubble patched with ashlar and supported by a modern buttress at the east end. On the north side a wide buttress has been added at the east end. The vestry seems to have been built as a north chapel and is probably contemporary with the added north aisle. It has a small twin lancet window on the east and a triple on the north, both with heads out of one stone.

The 14th century and has a moulded pointed arch and jambs with a modern hood-moulding, and above it a recent circular window enclosing a quatrefoil. The west gable of the north aisle has been refaced with a light-coloured sandstone and has low buttresses north and south. It has a single-light ogee-headed window in the centre. On the north side is a blocked doorway having a pointed arch with a chamfer continued down the jambs; the blocking includes the tracery of a two-light 14th-century window. It has three single lancet windows, the one to the west being a modern restoration. It is built of light-coloured sandstone ashlar with buttresses at both ends; the one on the east built of red sandstone. On the east side there is a 13th-century two-light pointed tracery window of two splayed orders, the outer one being very deep, built of red sandstone.

A two-bell turret, built of red sandstone ashlar, has a square base corbelled out on the east and west sides of the nave wall above the chancel arches. From the square base it goes into an octagon by means of splays at the angles surmounted by a short octagonal tapered spire with roll-mouldings on each of its angles and a moulded string-course at the base. In the square base there are single trefoil lights with ogee heads on the cardinal faces and above them, at the base of the spire, trefoil canopied steeple lights. The spire has a weather-vane with the cut initials I.H.S.

The chancel (24 ft. by 13 ft. 9 in.) has oak wainscot panelling, altar table and altar rails with turned balusters, all put in when the chancel was beautified in 1723. The floor is stone-paved in lozenges, with one step to the altar. The east window has a pointed rear-

<sup>45</sup> Harl. MS. 3650, fol. 19.

<sup>46</sup> *Cal. Chart. R.* iii, 277; *Cal. Pat.*

1476-85, p. 66.

<sup>47</sup> *Tax. Eccl. (Rec. Com.)*, 64.

<sup>48</sup> *Mon. Bailiffs' Accts.* (Dugd. Soc. ii),

44.

<sup>49</sup> J. H. Morrison, *The Underhills of Warwick*, 42, 52.

<sup>50</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1550-3, p. 223.

<sup>51</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2)*, cxiv, 69.



arch of two splays, and the low-side window a deep splayed recess with a flat head. The roof is a modern one of the trussed rafter type. Fixed to the south wall in a stone slab is a large early-15th-century brass, enamelled with red and black, of a man and woman. He is in full plate armour, with sword and dagger, and wears a jupon charged with his arms, a chevron between three martlets; his feet rest on a lion. She wears a long mantle, and a crespine head-dress; at her feet are two little dogs. Each wears a collar of SS. The marginal inscription, shown by Dugdale (p. 235) as partly imperfect, is missing, but a modern tablet states that they represent Sir William Bagot and Margaret his wife who lived at Baginton Castle in 1400. He died in 1407. There are several mural tablets of the 17th and 18th centuries to the Bromley family, whose vault occupies the east end of the north aisle. Behind the wainscot on the north side there is a wide blocked opening with a pointed arch of two splays extending nearly the whole length of the vestry. This suggests that the vestry was originally a north chapel open to the chancel.

The nave (34 ft. 6 in. by 17 ft.) has a plaster-vaulted ceiling concealing an open roof, and the floor is stone-paved in lozenges. At the west end there is a late-18th-century oak-pannelled gallery now used as an organ loft. The modern windows have deep, splayed recesses with pointed arches. The arcade, which dates from early in the 13th century, has three bays with pointed arches of two splayed orders resting on circular pillars with moulded capitals and bases; the capitals, however, are not sufficiently wide to take the outer splays, which are carried on crude corbels formed at the junction of the outer members by stops to the splays. The respond at the west end is a half-round and a repeat of the outer splay of the arch with a moulded capital and base. The east respond and part of the wall have been hacked away. The chancel arches are an unusual arrangement of two sets of triple arches, 3 ft. 6 in. apart, with arched soffits. On the nave side are three tall equal arches of two splays; the outer splay overlaps the narrow piers, which have no capitals, and the inner splay continues to the floor. On the chancel side the arches are similar but lower and were originally in the form of unglazed windows, the wall forming the sill having been removed. There are no responds, the splays dying out on the wall. In each of the two long narrow piers there are traces of blocked openings with flat chamfered heads. The splays of the arches to the nave have painted decorations, probably 14th-century, in dark red, consisting of rosettes on the outer arches and vine scrolls on the centre arch. Above the north arch to the chancel there are traces of lettering, and on the north jamb of a figure. The soffit of the southern arch is also decorated with rosettes. There are some traces of similar decoration on the splays of the east arcade arch. This arrangement of arches and piers is to support the bell turret.

The original north aisle (39 ft. by 4 ft. 8 in.) is very narrow and from the evidence and the presence of two arcades there is little doubt that the later arcade was built up against the nave wall, which was finally removed when the new aisle was practically completed; in which case the original aisle would have been 7 ft. 6 in. wide. This method was probably adopted to enable the church to continue functioning during the alteration.

The north aisle (39 ft. by 11 ft. 8 in.) is paved with stone slabs; one has the matrix of brasses representing a male and female with two children below. The whole of the east end is blocked by oak panelling 6 ft. 6 in. high enclosing a stone vault with the following inscription on the frieze in large Roman capitals—REPOSITORIUM BROMLEYCHORUM An: Do: 1677. Towards the east end is a tomb recess, half of which is blocked by the Bromley vault. It has a segmental-pointed arch, with one splay, containing a sepulchral slab with the lower half of a cross in low relief still visible. The late-13th-century arcade is of three bays with pointed arches of two splayed orders, the pillars repeating the splays with moulded capitals and bases; the base of the east pillar is 10 in. higher than the others. Both the capitals and bases have been somewhat mutilated. The three lancet windows all have shouldered rear-arches to widely splayed recesses, the east window splayed jambs with a pointed arch, and the west window recess has a segmental-pointed arch. In the east window is a 15th-century stained glass shield of Sir William Bagot and a 17th-century shield of Bromley. On the north side of the east window there is a carved corbel representing an angel holding a blank shield, and the apex of a pointed arch in the arcade wall is just visible above the top of the vault. The ceiling is plastered, concealing what is evidently a trussed rafter roof.

The seating is late-18th-century oak-pannelled box pews, most of them retaining their contemporary brass candle-holders. The pulpit is placed in the south-east corner of the nave and is contemporary with the pews. A modern octagonal stone font is placed at the west end of the nave.

The plate consists of silver-gilt alms-dish and chalice, hall-mark 1698; two silver-gilt flagons, chalice, and paten with hall-mark 1729.

Of the two bells, one is uninscribed and the other was cast by one of the Newcombes.<sup>52</sup>

The registers begin in 1628.

In the 12th century, when the ADVOWSON church of Stoneleigh was given to Kenilworth Priory, the chapel of Baginton was attached to it; but in the reign of John, when the priory appropriated the mother church, the chapel was allowed its independence, subject to the payment of 20s. yearly to Kenilworth,<sup>53</sup> who retained the advowson. In 1291 the church of Baginton was rated at £4 13s. 4d.,<sup>54</sup> and in 1535, when it is definitely styled a parish church, at £8 11s. 8d. in addition to the annual pension of 20s. to the canons of Kenilworth.<sup>55</sup> At the Dissolution the advowson and this pension came into the hands of the Crown, and in August 1544 were granted to Thomas Broke, merchant tailor of London,<sup>56</sup> who in the following May had licence to alienate them.<sup>57</sup> He probably sold them to Joan Winter and Ralph Underhill, who had bought the other Kenilworth property in the parish (see above), as in 1555 Joan Winter presented to the rectory, as did Edward Underhill in 1557 and 1560,<sup>58</sup> Ralph having died in 1555 seised of the advowson jointly with Joan.<sup>59</sup> Sir Henry Goodere had obtained the advowson by 1584, when he presented,<sup>60</sup> and since then it has descended with the manor.

In February 1292 Amice de Derley had licence to alienate 1 carucate of land and 30s. rent in Baginton to

<sup>52</sup> Tilley and Walters, *Church Bells of Warwick*, 106-7.

<sup>53</sup> Dugd. 228, citing the Register of Kenilworth.

<sup>54</sup> *Tax. Ecl.* (Rec. Com.), 241.

<sup>55</sup> *Valor Ecl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 69.

<sup>56</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xix (2), 106 (17).

<sup>57</sup> *Ibid.* xx (2), 846 (23).

<sup>58</sup> Dugd. 234.

<sup>59</sup> *Chan. Inq.* p.m. (Ser. 2), cxiv, 69.

<sup>60</sup> Dugd. 234.

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

a chaplain to celebrate in the parish church there.<sup>61</sup> Presentations to this chantry at the altar of St. Thomas the Martyr were made by the Herthills between 1305 and 1381, and by William Bagot in 1384 and 1392.<sup>62</sup>

It would seem that for a while after the advowson came into lay hands the rectorial endowments were separated from the church, as Dugdale states<sup>63</sup> that the benefice 'was served by stipendiaries without any certain allowance' and also without a residence until 1628, when Katherine Bromley, mother and guardian of William, allowed Mr. Thomas Gibson, to whom she had given the living, to have the tithes and to live in the house on Underhill's Farm, which has continued to be the Rectory. Her son Sir William ratified this agreement and further endowed the benefice.

Clobery Bromley by will dated **CHARITIES** 15 March 1710 bequeathed to the poor of Baginton the sum of £50.

Sir William Bromley. By a deed dated 8 June 1757 it was recited that two rent-charges, each of 10s., issuing out of the rectory at Baginton and the mill there respectively were granted to the lord of the manor of Baginton and the churchwardens and overseers, to distribute the same yearly on 1 January to the most necessitous poor of the parish, and a further charge of 20s. issuing out of the rectory to give the same yearly on 1 January to some worthy orthodox divine to preach a sermon on that day.

Daniel Morgan by will dated 15 February 1713 gave to the churchwardens and overseers of Baginton £10, the interest to be disposed of annually amongst the poor of the parish in bread on 10 March; and a further sum of £10, the interest to be paid to the minister of Baginton for preaching a sermon on 10 March, 'on

which day', he says in his will, 'I was seized by a devouring Wolfe, and was by the Providence of Almighty God delivered out of his clutches, which I desire may be expressed by the Minister in his Sermon'.<sup>64</sup> The residue of his personal estate he gave to his executor in trust to dispose of amongst the poor people of this parish.

Mary Turner by will dated 24 September 1607 charged certain property in Solihull, in the County of Warwick, with the annual payment of the sum of £3 6s. 8d. for the relief of the poor impotent and most needy people dwelling in the parishes of Kenilworth, Styvichall, Baginton, Stoneleigh, Bubbenhall, Ryton, Wolston, Stretton, Marton, and Wappenbury. The sum of 6s. 8d. to be paid to the churchwardens and overseers of each parish for distribution in accordance with the directions contained in the will. The rent-charge was redeemed in 1923 in consideration of a sum of £133 6s. 8d. 2½ per cent. Consols, producing £3 6s. 8d. annually.

The above charities are now regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 2 February 1915 under the title of the United Charities. The scheme appoints a body of trustees to administer the charities in three branches, to be called respectively: The Ecclesiastical Branch; The Apprenticing Branch; and The Poor's Branch.

The scheme directs the payment of the income of the Ecclesiastical Branch, amounting to £1 10s., to the Rector of Baginton; that of the Apprenticing Branch, amounting to £10 7s., in putting out apprentices to some useful trade; and that of the Poor's Branch, amounting to £6 15s. 4d., for the general benefit of the poor.

## BEDWORTH

Acreage: 7,851 (2,165 prior to 1932).

Population: 1911, 9,595; 1921, 11,548; 1931, 16,956.

Bedworth is a parish and former market-town on the high road from Coventry to Nuneaton, 5 miles north of the former place, with which it was connected by electric tramway prior to 1941.<sup>1</sup> Chivers Cotton on the north, Bulkington on the east, Exhall and Corley on the south, and Astley on the west are the neighbouring parishes. The town is centred at the junction of roads to Bedworth Heath and Bulkington with the main road, with the church on the south and the Chamberlaine Almshouses to the east of the market-place. The Coventry and Nuneaton branch of the L.M.S. Railway has a station here, and the Coventry Canal passes through the east of the parish.

By the Warwickshire (Bedworth Urban District) Order, 1928, the parish received urban status, and by the Warwickshire Review Order, 1932, it was enlarged by the addition of Exhall and Foleshill parishes and parts of Astley and Walsgrave on Sowe, bringing the acreage up to 4,763. It has since been further enlarged, and the population in 1947 was estimated to be 23,570.

The slope of the ground is from west to east, from 446 ft. in the north-west of the parish near Astley to

304 ft. along the canal bank. Ribbon development along the main road almost connects the town with Coventry and Nuneaton, and there is much colliery and industrial development. Bedworth was well known for its coal-mines in Dugdale's time; in 1730 the hamlet of Colly Croft, north of the town, contained over 30 houses, mainly occupied by miners. At that time the town consisted of about 260 houses; Thomas states that there were not more than 14 families in the reign of Elizabeth, before large scale coal working had begun.<sup>2</sup> In the early 17th century the system of free houses and coal for pitmen was already in operation.<sup>3</sup> Sir Roger Newdigate (1719-1806) owned coal works at Bedworth, and cut a canal to the Coventry Canal for the distribution of their produce.<sup>4</sup>

Except for open country in the Corley Wood neighbourhood the parish is dotted with red brick and tile cottages which are intermingled with the modern housing of a mining town.

Opposite the market, and built round three sides of a quadrangle open to the road, stands a large group of modern almshouses, and lining the surrounding streets are rows of houses built early in the last century to accommodate silk weavers—manufacturers of ribands—each house having a lofty upper story, lit by large windows.

<sup>61</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1281-92, p. 473.

<sup>62</sup> Dugd. 234.

<sup>63</sup> *Ibid.* 233.

<sup>64</sup> *Ibid.* 236, where details are given of his picturesque provisions for his funeral.

He was for 20 years butler to Mr. Bromley and after his retirement practised bone-setting, to the benefit of his poor neighbours.

<sup>1</sup> Frederick Smith, *Coventry*: 600 years

of municipal life, p. 154.

<sup>2</sup> Dugd. 122. See also *V.C.H. Warw.*

ii, 220-2.

<sup>3</sup> *Cal. S. P. Dom.* 1619-23, p. 459.

<sup>4</sup> *Dict. Nat. Biog.*





BAGINTON CHURCH, c. 1820



BIDWORTH CHURCH, c. 1820



Few ancient buildings remain. The site of the old Manor House is said<sup>5</sup> to be near that now occupied by the Council offices.

The old Rectory stands over  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile to the west of the church and just within the parish boundary. Although most of the house is of the mid-18th century, there is a wing at the rear which appears to date back a hundred years earlier. The windows here have heads constructed of stone flat arches with moulded keyblocks. There are internal doors belonging to both the early and late 17th century, and the most remarkable feature is the heavy oak staircase with solid strings and turned newels and balusters, which gives access to the first and second floors in conjunction with another stair of 18th-century design; two turned balusters, coupled together, form the bottom newel. There are ancient yew hedges in the gardens fringing a stream which may once have formed a moat.

Moat Farm, now converted into two cottages forming an elongated rectangle, is situated in the south-west corner of the parish and is approached from Goodyers End by Broomhouse Lane—a cul-de-sac to the north. It is mainly of two-storied 16th-century half-timber construction, with a tile roof gabled at the ends, but the long side adjacent to the Lane was rebuilt in brickwork in the 18th century. The opposite wall (on the east side), of half-timber, has wide panels between the timbers, braced at first-floor level and filled with brick nogging. The foundations to the framing consist of heavy sandstone blocks, one block on the south-west corner measuring 1 ft. deep, 1 ft. 9 in. wide, and 3 ft. long.

Surrounding the cottages is a ditch which, though now dry, was once a square moat. Opposite the centre of the east wall of the cottages a causeway spans the ditch to form a level approach from the Lane. The side walls of the causeway are much overgrown but below the modern parapet the brickwork is more ancient, and the foundations are of sandstone, pierced by drainage vents.

William Hanbury (1725–78), Rector of Church Langton (Leics), and promoter of schemes for founding hospitals, colleges, and a cathedral from the revenues to be derived from planting woodlands,<sup>6</sup> was born here; and Dr. John Bull, the Elizabethan composer, held reversions for 21 years of lands in Bedworth known as Maynardeslands, formerly in possession of the College of Astley.<sup>7</sup>

Place-names mentioned in early documents include le Longecrone, Echelesfurlong, Peshul, Scortwodehet, le Putgreven, and Portlidgate. A mill is mentioned in 1331.<sup>8</sup>

An Inclosure Act relating to 16 $\frac{1}{2}$  yardlands, or 500 acres, was passed in 1769.<sup>9</sup> Bedworth was the headquarters of a Gilbert's Act Poor Law Union, comprising the parishes of Bedworth, Brinklow, Pailton, and Wolvey in Warwickshire, and Harthill, Higham on the Hill, Ratcliffe, Sibson, Stapleton, Stoke Golding, Sutton Cheney, and Willoughby in Leicestershire.<sup>10</sup>

In the time of Edward the Confessor *MANORS* Edwin, Earl of Mercia, held 4 hides in *BEDWORTH*, which in 1086 had passed to Robert, Count of Meulan, Ulifetel holding of him.<sup>11</sup> As with the count's other Warwickshire possessions, Bedworth soon passed to Henry, Earl of Warwick, and his descendants; in 1235<sup>12</sup> Simon de Turvill and Roger de Craft, who had married two daughters and coheirs of William Turvill, and in 1242<sup>13</sup> the same Roger and John Mace (perhaps a tenant during a minority)<sup>14</sup> held one knight's fee of the Earl of Warwick. The overlordship of the Earls of Warwick continued, and though there is no explicit reference to the earls after 1437,<sup>15</sup> the Saunders' manor (see below) was held of the King as of the earldom of Warwick in 1621.<sup>16</sup> From the 14th century an intermediate tenure appears; in 1316 John de Hastings held one knight's fee in Bedworth and Willey of the Earl of Warwick.<sup>17</sup> This family became Earls of Pembroke, and on their extinction in 1389 the mesne lordship passed to a younger branch of the Beauchamps, Sir William de Beauchamp holding one knight's fee of the Earl of Warwick in 1400,<sup>18</sup> and Joan his widow in 1435<sup>19</sup> and 1437.<sup>20</sup> It then passed to her granddaughter and heiress Elizabeth, wife of Edward Neville, Lord Bergavenny, whose son George passed it in 1475 to Edward Grey, Viscount Lisle.<sup>21</sup> His son John died in 1505 leaving a posthumous daughter Elizabeth who died without issue in 1519;<sup>22</sup> in 1513 the manor was stated to be in the hands of her mother, Thomas Massy being bailiff and Henry Smyth steward.<sup>23</sup> After Elizabeth's death it passed to Sir Arthur Plantagenet,<sup>24</sup> the second husband of her aunt and heiress, another Elizabeth, formerly wife of Edmund Dudley; he died in 1542 without male issue,<sup>25</sup> and it passed to his stepson, John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland, on whose attainder in 1553 it reverted to the crown.

The Turvill and Craft families who held a knight's fee as tenants of the Earl of Warwick in 1235 were represented in 1313 by Robert Turvill, William Charneles, and the heirs of Hugh de Herdebewere,<sup>26</sup> holding as sub-tenants of John de Hastings, the latter two parties being descended from the de Crafts through female lines.<sup>27</sup> The manor thus became divided into two parts; in 1330 Robert de Turvill leased a moiety of the manor, except for certain lands, to his brother Master Philip de Turvill for his life.<sup>28</sup> Oliver de Turvill and William Charneles are mentioned as tenants in 1346–7,<sup>29</sup> and in 1361 Robert de Lymeseie, presumably representing the Turvills, and Joan de Charneles were tenants, the immediate overlord in this case being John de Moubray of Axholme,<sup>30</sup> who may have been a guardian during the minority of John, Earl of Pembroke. The descent of the Turvill moiety then becomes obscure.



CHARNELES. Azure a cross engrailed or.

<sup>5</sup> By Mr. Alfred H. Lawrence of Bedworth.

<sup>6</sup> *Dict. Nat. Bug.*

<sup>7</sup> *Pat.* 35 Eliz. pt. 8.

<sup>8</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xv), 1705.

<sup>9</sup> Slater, *Engl. Peasantry & Encl.* 303.

<sup>10</sup> White, *Directory Warwick.* (1850), p. 570.

<sup>11</sup> *V.C.H. Warwick*, i, 315.

<sup>12</sup> *Bk. of Feet*, 507.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.* 957.

<sup>14</sup> See *V.C.H. Warwick*, iii, 93.

<sup>15</sup> *Chan. Inq.* p.m. 16 Hen. VI, no. 19.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.* (Ser. 2), clxxiii, 149.

<sup>17</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, p. 405.

<sup>18</sup> *Chan. Inq.* p.m. 2 Hen. IV, no. 58.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.* 14 Hen. VI, no. 35.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.* 16 Hen. VI, no. 19.

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.* (Ser. 2), xviii, 2.

<sup>22</sup> *G.E.C. Complete Peerage* (2nd. ed.),

viii, 62.

<sup>23</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, i, 575–6.

<sup>24</sup> *Anct. D.* (P.R.O.), B. 10780.

<sup>25</sup> *G.E.C. loc. cit.* 67.

<sup>26</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, 234.

<sup>27</sup> *V.C.H. Warwick*, iii, 93.

<sup>28</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xv), 1675.

<sup>29</sup> Dugd. 119, quoting deeds in hands of

Sir Simon Clarke.

<sup>30</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* xi, p. 142.

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

The Charneles moiety was held by Sir William in 1276<sup>31</sup> and passed to his son<sup>32</sup> Henry before 1316.<sup>33</sup> His son Sir William held it in 1334<sup>34</sup> and died in or before 1350, when his widow Margaret was lady of the manor,<sup>35</sup> as she continued to be until 1383.<sup>36</sup> In that year her son John Charneles settled half of the manor on her for life; the other half he had conveyed to John Grenehull as trustee,<sup>37</sup> probably for a settlement on his wife Elizabeth, to whom in her widowhood Grenehull conveyed the property in 1403.<sup>38</sup> The Charneles manor was granted by John de la Hall and Joan his wife, sister and heiress of John Charneles, to Sir William de Asteley and others in 1403,<sup>39</sup> and in 1413 the reversion was granted<sup>40</sup> to Sir William, the manor-house and some land then being in occupation of Thomas de Rokedon, for his life, and then to his daughter Joan and her husband Reynold, Lord Grey of Ruthin; from them it passed through the female line to the Greys of Groby, Lords Ferrers and later Marquesses of Dorset. On the attainder in 1554 of Henry Grey, Marquess of Dorset and Duke of Suffolk, it was forfeited to the Crown; he had in 1551 leased 'the manor place', with barns, stables, a dovehouse, and three closes called Oxeclose, Roughclose, and Paynes Haye, for 21 years to Richard Smythe of Coventry, whose father had been tenant also. The lease was renewed by the Crown in 1557 at the same yearly rent of £6 16s. for 30 years.<sup>41</sup> In 1595 it was regranted by the Crown to Thomas Reade,<sup>42</sup> and in 1602 to Sir Clement Fisher,<sup>43</sup> at whose death in 1620 Robert his son and heir was 40 or more years of age.<sup>44</sup> In 1730 his descendants kept court baron at Bedworth.<sup>45</sup> In 1608 the Fishers granted the site of the manor, lands, and liberty to dig coal in the manor of Bedworth to Sir Thomas Beaumont,<sup>46</sup> and in 1615 Sir Henry Beaumont and others in turn leased these rights to Sir William Turpin and others.<sup>47</sup> Sir Henry Beaumont made a fresh sub-lease to William Blake, esq. and William Rolfe, gent. in 1624.<sup>48</sup> The Fishers remained in possession of the manorial rights till after 1712, when Mary daughter and heiress of Sir Clement Fisher married Heneage Finch, 2nd Earl of Aylesford,<sup>49</sup> with whose family the lordship remained till early in the 20th century. About 1911 the Earl of Aylesford had sold the lordship to Mr. J. Richards,<sup>50</sup> who died in 1933, the estate now being in the hands of his sons, Messrs. E. W. and N. F. Richards.<sup>51</sup>

A manor called *SAUNDERS' MANOR* appears in the reign of Elizabeth, and is probably to be identified

with the Turvill half of the manor; half the advowson was alleged to have descended with it,<sup>52</sup> and in 1640 Timothy Saunders is described as 'one of the lords of the manor of Bedworth'.<sup>53</sup> The Saunders were a Northamptonshire family, of whom the first to settle in Bedworth was John, eldest son of Edward Saunders of Harrington (Northants.),<sup>54</sup> which suggests that he had married the heiress of the Turvill interest. His grandson<sup>55</sup> William died in December 1586, seised of the manor and of a moiety of the advowson, leaving a son Michael.<sup>56</sup> In 1621 this manor was stated to be held of the King as of the earldom of Warwick.<sup>57</sup>



SAUNDERS. Party chevronwise sable and argent three elephants' heads erased counter-changed.

In 1651 Timothy and Francis Saunders and their wives, and others, were dealing with the manor,<sup>58</sup> and in 1658 it was conveyed to Francis by Brasbridge Saunders, Ann Saunders, widow, and Richard Saunders, and Elizabeth wife of the last.<sup>59</sup> After this date Saunders' Manor is not mentioned as such; the family was still described as of Bedworth in 1682.<sup>60</sup> In that year an estate in Bedworth was sold by Martha Flint and Humphrey Greswold to Nicholas Chamberlaine, Rector of Bedworth, to pay the debts of Samuel Flint, serjeant-at-law, Martha's husband.<sup>61</sup> Other lands, described as half a manor, being possibly the Saunders' manor, were sold by William Willoughby and Elizabeth his wife to Charles Goodwyn in 1696.<sup>62</sup> It was from Charles Goodwyn that Nicholas Chamberlaine, clerk, purchased land worth £200 a year, to endow boys' and girls' charity schools and almshouses;<sup>63</sup> the Governors of the Chamberlaine Charity are still one of the principal landowners in Bedworth. Nicholas Chamberlaine bequeathed the manor to his nephew, another Nicholas, who was the owner in 1730, keeping courts leet and baron.<sup>64</sup> In 1751 the Chamberlaine share had passed to the Hughes family of Coventry,<sup>65</sup> who retained it till shortly before 1798, when Francis Parrott was lord.<sup>66</sup> In 1809 he and John Pratt conveyed their share to William Piercy.<sup>67</sup>

*SMERCOTE*, already a depopulated hamlet in Dugdale's time,<sup>68</sup> was held as to one hide by Sexi in the reign of Edward the Confessor. In 1086 the Count of Meulan was chief and Godric sub-tenant.<sup>69</sup> In 1285 William le Boteler had free warren here,<sup>70</sup> which was exemplified in 1500 by Sir Thomas Boteler.<sup>71</sup> Land in Smercote belonged to St. John Baptist Hospital in Coventry,<sup>72</sup> and on its suppression in 1545 was granted to John Hales of Coventry.<sup>73</sup> This probably originated in a grant of land in Bedworth by Bernard de



FISHER. Argent a chevron wavy vair between three demi-lions gules.

<sup>31</sup> Anct. D. (P.R.O.), B. 11258.

<sup>32</sup> Add. MS. 28024, fol. 102v.

<sup>33</sup> Feud. Aids, v, 176.

<sup>34</sup> Anct. D. (P.R.O.), B. 10812.

<sup>35</sup> Ibid. B. 10764.

<sup>36</sup> Madox, *Formulare Angli*, no. 209.

<sup>37</sup> Anct. D. (P.R.O.), B. 10766.

<sup>38</sup> Ibid. B. 10781.

<sup>39</sup> Madox, op. cit., no. 580.

<sup>40</sup> Ibid. no. 214.

<sup>41</sup> Cal. Pat. 1557-8, p. 28; 1558-60, pp. 434, 436-7.

<sup>42</sup> Pat. 37 Eliz. pt. 10.

<sup>43</sup> Pat. 44 Eliz. pt. 25.

<sup>44</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), ccccxviii, 175.

<sup>45</sup> Dugd. 120.

<sup>46</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 6 Jas. I.

<sup>47</sup> Ibid. Div. Cos. Hil. 12 Jas. I.

<sup>48</sup> Ibid. Trin. 20 Jas. I.

<sup>49</sup> G.E.C. *Complete Peerage* (2nd ed.), i, 365.

<sup>50</sup> Kelly, *Directory Warw.*

<sup>51</sup> Information from Canon F. N. Didsbury, Rector of Bedworth.

<sup>52</sup> e.g. Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), dclxxxii, 149.

<sup>53</sup> Warw. Co. Records, ii, 74.

<sup>54</sup> *Vitin. of Warw.* 1619 (Harl. Soc.), 371.

<sup>55</sup> Ibid.

<sup>56</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), dclxxxii, 149.

<sup>57</sup> Ibid.

<sup>58</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Trin. 1651.

<sup>59</sup> Ibid. East. 1658.

<sup>60</sup> *Vitin. of Warw.* 1682-3 (Harl. Soc.), 111.

<sup>61</sup> Dugd. 120.

<sup>62</sup> Feet of F. Div. Cos. Mich. 8 Wm. III.

<sup>63</sup> Dugd. 120.

<sup>64</sup> Ibid.

<sup>65</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations, Shire Hall, Warwick.

<sup>66</sup> Ibid.

<sup>67</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 50 Geo. III.

<sup>68</sup> Dugd. 122.

<sup>69</sup> *P.C.H. Warw.* i, 315.

<sup>70</sup> Cal. Chart. R. ii, 326.

<sup>71</sup> Cal. Pat. 1494-1509, p. 206.

<sup>72</sup> *Valor Eccl. (Rec. Com.)*, iii, 52.

<sup>73</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xx (1), p. 666.

Arleye in 1327,<sup>74</sup> and another of 2 acres of wood there by William Suwet in 1392.<sup>75</sup>

A grove called Boles Grove in Bedworth which had belonged to the Carthusian Priory of St. Anne, Coventry, was granted in 1545 to Richard and Thomas Lawley.<sup>76</sup>

A close and pasture called Church Close, which had formerly provided for the upkeep of a lamp in the church, was granted in 1570 to Nicholas Yetsweirt and Bartholomew Brokesby.<sup>77</sup>

The church of *ALL SAINTS* is *CHURCH* largely modern and stands on the west side of the main street. It consists of a square chancel, nave with north and south aisles, a chapel to the south of the chancel, and two vestries, for clergy and choir, to the north. Being without a clearstory the nave is lighted by means of two-light windows in the aisles. In the west there is a tower, without a spire, and the aisles are entered by a north and a south porch.

There have been at least three churches on the same site, and the list of rectors contained in the church dates back to about 1300. The earliest surviving remains are of the 14th century, as indicated by blocks of red sandstone dug up when the foundations of the present church were being prepared, and afterwards incorporated in them.<sup>78</sup> Another church was built early in the 19th century<sup>79</sup> to replace all but the tower of the one preceding it. The new nave ran with its length from north to south, immediately to the east of the old tower; it contained galleries, and a small chancel was planned on the east side,<sup>80</sup> opposite the tower. The whole of the church built at this time must have been demolished, for, with the exception of the tower, all the present fabric was built between 1888 and 1890 of red Runcorn sandstone with slate roofs. The style is uniform and in the manner of the 14th century.

The square tower of grey sandstone, though of genuine 14th-century work, has been much restored and is of little interest. It is constructed in two stages divided by a string-course. The mouldings of the embattled parapet and the base courses have been replaced in modern times. The four diagonal buttresses finish beneath the parapet. Those on the west side bear signs of two medieval scratch dials which have been restored. None of the openings appear to be preserved in their original state. The belfry window of two lights in each of the four sides has a two-centred 14th-century head with no cusping (probably removed). In the lower story the only external openings consist of a west door with three-light window over, both constructed with two-centred heads in the 19th century, the window tracery having been replaced at a more recent date.

Internally a two-centred tower arch of two plain chamfered orders dying on to square jambs opens into the nave and appears to be of 14th-century work. It is closed off by a pair of modern wrought-iron gates. The roofs are of open timber construction, with the members gilded over the main altar.

Five wall tablets of black and white marble, all dated about 1790, are fixed to the walls of the chancel. The reredos is of carved marble, and a modern organ overlooks the chancel, contained in a loft over the vestry. The interior walls are all plastered.

There is a peal of eight bells. Seven are mounted in the main belfry and one at a higher level just beneath the tower roof.<sup>81</sup> There were three by Watts of Leicester; the tenor, weighing 8 cwt., was recast in 1891 with the following old inscription recorded: 'CUM CUM AND PRAIE'; the other two were not recast and both bear the following words: 'IHS NAZARENUS REX JUDAEORUM MISERERE MEI FILI DEI' with the two dates, respectively 1627 and 1629. The remaining five bells simply bear the date '1891' and 'J. Taylor, Loughborough'.

The first mention of a priest at *ADPOWSON* Bedworth is in 1297, when protection was granted to Master Robert de Craft, parson.<sup>82</sup> In 1300 Master Philip de Turvill had leave of absence for 3 years to continue at the university, the patron then being William Charneles.<sup>83</sup> The patronage continued with the Charneles family all through the 14th century, and passed with the Charneles half of the manor to the Astley family, and so through the Greys of Ruthin and the Lords Ferrers to the Marquesses of Dorset till the attainder of Henry in 1554, except that in 1512 Henry Smyth presented *pro hac vice*,<sup>84</sup> and in 1521 Richard, son of Henry Grey, conveyed his rights in the advowson with the manor to Sir Arthur Plantagenet, who held the mesne lordship.<sup>85</sup> From the beginning of the 17th century the advowson was attached to the main manor, held by the Fishers, though the Saunders, tenants of the other half-manor, included it in all their dealings with the manor, and William Saunders presented to the benefice in April 1569; but as the Crown made another presentation just a month later it would seem that his right was not acknowledged.<sup>86</sup> From 1662 the right of presentation went with the Fisher half of the manor, except in 1663 when Sir Clement Throckmorton presented,<sup>87</sup> and so to the Earls of Aylesford, who held the right till the 20th century.<sup>88</sup> In 1926 the patronage was in the hands of Col. Brittan and Mr. A. Bolton,<sup>89</sup> and from about 1930 of the Martyrs' Memorial and Church of England Trust.<sup>90</sup>

The rectory was valued in 1291 at £5 6s. 8d.<sup>91</sup> and in 1535 at £10 3s. 10d.<sup>92</sup>

Isabel, widow of Sir William de Turvill, in about 1230 gave to the canons of Arbury Priory land in the Hook Wood in Bedworth for the good of the souls of her husband and of their son William.<sup>93</sup> A century later, in 1332, Philip de Turvill, rector of Bedworth and prebendary of Lichfield, by permission of his brother Robert, lord of the manor, gave property here to found a chantry at the altar of St. Mary in Bedworth church.<sup>94</sup> He must have given the patronage to the canons of Arbury, as they presented to the chantry from 1339 to 1422.<sup>95</sup> In 1424, however, it was found that

<sup>74</sup> Cal. Pat. 1327-30, p. 197.

<sup>75</sup> Ibid. 1391-6, p. 133.

<sup>76</sup> L. and P. Hen. VIII, xx (2), 496 (34).

<sup>77</sup> Pat. 12 Eliz. pt. 10, m. 23.

<sup>78</sup> Information given by Mr. Alfred H. Lawrence of Bedworth.

<sup>79</sup> Lewis's *Topog. Dict.* gives the date 1827; Mr. Lawrence says that alterations were undertaken in 1851.

<sup>80</sup> From contemporary documents framed and hung up in the Vestry.

<sup>81</sup> Information from Mr. Lawrence. Cf.

Tilley and Walters, *Church Bells of Warwick*, 110.

<sup>82</sup> Cal. Pat. 1292-1301, p. 268.

<sup>83</sup> Dugd. 121, quoting episcopal registers.

<sup>84</sup> Ibid. same source. Henry Smyth was steward of the manor for Lady Lisle in 1513.

<sup>85</sup> Close R. 13 Hen. VIII, 9. This Richard Grey, clerk, was great-grandson of Sir Reynold Grey and Joan Astley: Anct. D. (P.R.O.), B. 10780.

<sup>86</sup> Dugd. 121.

<sup>87</sup> Ibid.

<sup>88</sup> Inst. Bks. P.R.O.; Kelly, *Directory Warwick*, 1900.

<sup>89</sup> Crookford, 1926.

<sup>90</sup> Information from Rector of Bedworth.

<sup>91</sup> *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 241.

<sup>92</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 58.

<sup>93</sup> Anct. D. (P.R.O.), B. 3608.

<sup>94</sup> Ibid. B. 357, 401, 12455; Cal. Pat. 1330-4, p. 253.

<sup>95</sup> Dugd. 121.



# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

the endowment was insufficient for the support of a chaplain, and the Bishop and Dean of Lichfield ordained that in future one of the canons of Arbury should say a mass of the Blessed Virgin on three days in the week at Bedworth and on the other days in the church of the priory.<sup>96</sup> The property held by Arbury in this parish at the Dissolution was worth £2 8s. 8d.<sup>97</sup>

Nicholas Chamberlaine's Hospital and Sermon Charity is regulated by a Scheme *CHARITIES* dated 14 September 1878 made under the Endowed Schools Acts and is comprised in an Order made by the Charity Commissioners dated 20 July 1906. The charity was founded by will dated 24 June 1715 which directed that the Alms-houses which the testator had then covenanted to have built in Bedworth should be occupied by poor men and poor women born in and of the parish of Bedworth and that each inmate should be allowed 11s. 6d. weekly and the sum of 4s. yearly to provide them with fuel, and also receive every two years at Christmas a gown or coat. Under the provisions of the above-mentioned scheme the yearly sum of £1 1s. is required to be paid by the Hospital Governors for a sermon to be preached by one of them, being a minister, or by some other minister, in accordance with the directions contained in the will.

Orton Memorial Trust. By a Declaration of Trust

dated 30 August 1939 a sum of £200 2½ per cent. Consols was settled upon trust, the dividends to be applied by the trustees, who are appointed by the Urban District Council of Bedworth, in making gifts of coal to poor or necessitous widows who are resident in the Urban District.

Abraham Hammersley by will in 1724 charged certain property in Bedworth with the annual payment of 10s. to 20 poor widows of the parish to be chosen and nominated by the vicar and churchwardens.

Henry Smith. This parish is one of those partaking, in common with twenty-one other parishes, of the rents of the Thurlaston Estate, comprising part of the endowment of the General Charity of Henry Smith. The share of the income applicable for each parish is, in accordance with the provisions contained in an indenture dated 20 January 1626-7, applied by the churchwardens and overseers of each parish for the relief of the aged poor or infirm people of each parish.

Church Estate. By an Act for inclosing the common fields of this parish certain land was awarded to the rector and churchwardens of the parish for the repairing, beautifying, and enlarging the parish church. Part of the land has been sold and the proceeds of sale invested. Trustees of the charity are now appointed by Order of the Charity Commissioners. The annual income of the Charity amounts to £62 (approximately).

## BILTON

Acreage: 2,306.

Population: 1911, 5,188; 1921, 6,080.

By the Rugby Urban District (Extension) Order, 1931, the greater part of the ancient parish of Bilton was transferred for civil purposes to Rugby and the remainder to Dunchurch. The old village, a compact settlement typical of the eastern and southern portions of Warwickshire, is about 1½ miles south-west of Rugby on the Leamington road. Other roads lead from the village to Long Lawford, Dunchurch, and the main road from Dunchurch to Northampton, which itself crosses the south-east part of the parish, a bridle road from it leading past Inwood's Farm over Rains Brook into Northamptonshire. The northern part is crossed by the road from Rugby to the Lawfords and contains New Bilton, a separate ecclesiastical parish since 1867 and a suburb of Rugby, also the Rugby Portland Cement Works and several brickworks. The L.M.S. Railway lines from Rugby to Crewe, Birmingham, and Leamington cross the parish, but there is no station. There were about 40 houses in Bilton in 1730.<sup>2</sup>

The land rises from the River Avon on the north, and Rains Brook on the south-east, where the level is about 270 ft., to 373 ft. in the village and 401 ft. near Bilton Grange on the southern boundary. Bilton Grange is a modern house on the site of a grange of Pipewell Abbey, to whom most of the southern part of the parish, described as 'in breadth from the outmost limits of Dunchurch to the old Morwey by the old road leading from (Hill) Morton towards Warwick, and in length from the end of that road by the same Morwey to a little rill of water, called Reynesbroc',<sup>3</sup> was granted

in the 12th century. The parish was inclosed by private agreement in 1656.<sup>4</sup>

A fragment of the shaft of a cross stands in the middle of the village, where it was reset in 1897. South of it is a small range of timber-framed building, probably of the early 17th century, to which date also belongs 'The Long Barn', west of the church, now forming two cottages.

South-west of the church is Bilton Hall, a brick building with stone dressings and tiled roofs, generally of two but in part of three stories. The main frontage to the drive faces north-west, that to the garden south-east. It has been divided in recent years into four flats. In the garden are the former entrance gates erected by Joseph Addison and bearing his initials and the monogram of his wife Charlotte, Countess of Warwick. They were moved to their present position in 1825.<sup>4a</sup>

The oldest part of the house is said to have been built by Edward Boughton of Lawford;<sup>5</sup> its architectural features are consistent with a late-16th- or early-17th-century date. It appears originally to have been of H-plan, though successive alterations have made its exact form difficult to determine. It was added to in 1623 and partially rebuilt first in the early 18th century<sup>6</sup> and again rather more than a century later.

The north-west elevation of the main block consists of a gabled wing of three and a range of two stories; it has a porch and modern additions. The gabled wing, aligned north-west and south-east, shows three mullioned and transomed windows of six lights; each mullion and transom bears a cyma moulding. The top window is shorter than the others and has a label stopped with

<sup>96</sup> Dugd. 121; Madox, *Formulare Angl.* no. 130.

<sup>97</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Con.), iii, 56.

<sup>1</sup> In 1931 the population of the ecclesiastical parish was 1,572 and that of New

Bilton 4,394.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* 27; Cott. MS. Calig. A. xiii, fol. 61.

<sup>3</sup> Glebe Terrier, Shire Hall, D.R.O. 72 a (*Ex inf.* Mr. M. W. Beresford).

<sup>4</sup> Dugd. 29.

<sup>4a</sup> *Birm. Arch. Soc. Trans.* xix, 35.

<sup>5</sup> M. H. Bloxam, pamphlet on Bilton Hall (B.R.L.).

<sup>6</sup> Bloxam (*op. cit.*) says Addison was responsible for the 18th-century work.



short returns.<sup>7</sup> There is a moulded plinth; a string-course indicates externally the division between first and second story, and both this and the porch gables are surmounted by tapering pinnacles of square section, placed diagonally. The porch, adjacent to this wing, has a stone doorway with a depressed four-centred head, chamfered continuously with the jambs. Above it is a semicircular-headed panel moulded with a hexagram within a circle. The string-course, which is continuous from the wing around the porch, is here raised to clear the head of the panel. In the second story is another mullioned and transomed window of six lights; in the top story is a mullioned window of three lights having a label stopped with short returns. A stone panel above it bears the date 1623. Both wing and porch have flush ashlar quoins to the first and second stories, but not to the top story. On the south-west side of the porch is a chimney-stack, added in the early 19th century, having three octagonal shafts with moulded cappings. Abutting the stack and alongside the 17th-century range connecting the two wings is a small extension also dating from the early 19th century.<sup>8</sup> In the remaining original portion of the range is a string-course of a profile similar to that around the porch; there is a casement window in the first and a sash window in the second story. A small gabled porch occupies the angle between this range and the older wing; its brickwork is not bonded with either of the adjacent blocks. It contains in its north-west elevation a doorway with a depressed four-centred head, chamfered continuously with the jambs. Above the door are two three-light mullioned windows; both windows and door have square labels stopped with short returns.

The original building of H-plan has in the recessed portion of its north-west elevation a three-light mullioned window and two blocked windows, one with a segmental head. The gable has a window in each of its two stories and attic, all having been altered from the original Tudor form; above the attic window is a stone shield bearing the arms of Boughton with supporters. The finials of this gable, as also of the porch gables, are of a more elaborate form than those on the 1623 portion of the house. Most of the windows in the north-west elevation of this wing, and the entire south-west elevation of the house, have been greatly altered in the 18th and 19th centuries.

The south end of the garden frontage is built in stretcher bond with quoins and a plat-band. The first story externally is largely modern; of the eight second-story windows one is now blocked but the others retain their original moulded wooden frames flush with the wall. Of the two dormers in the steep-pitched roof, one retains its heavy segmental head. The garden front of the 1623 wing, now covered in smooth stucco, has two large bay-windows in the first and second stories, of which the upper one is battlemented; both seem to belong to the first quarter of the 19th century.<sup>9</sup>

The interior of the house nowhere retains its 17th-century appearance, and much even of the plan has been altered. The hall still has its 18th-century panelling, and the staircase, of the same date, its twisted balusters

and fluted angle-posts. At several places throughout the house are wall-cupboards and powder-closets of early-18th-century date. The attics in the oldest part of the house contain a small amount of timber-framed plaster panelling, the roof of the 1623 part has a king-post, tie-beam, and diagonal braces.

Amongst noteworthy men associated with Bilton are Joseph Addison, who was lord of the manor from 1711 to 1719 (see below), and Henry Holyoake, rector from 1705 to 1731, the first headmaster of Rugby School to raise it above the level of purely local importance.<sup>10</sup>

**BILTON** was held by Ulwin in the time **MANOR** of Edward the Confessor. In 1086 it hides less 1 virgate were held by a certain William under Roger de Montgomery, Earl of Arundel and Shrewsbury, and 1 virgate by Turchil of Warwick with Gilbert as sub-tenant.<sup>11</sup> Most of Turchil's lands passed soon afterwards to the Earl of Warwick, but there is no further record of his small estate in Bilton. In the middle of the 12th century Walter son of Hingan, or Ingald, and Mary his wife, gave their lands here to the abbey of Pipewell, Northants., in 1154 and 1163.<sup>12</sup> This gift was confirmed by Roger (son of Geoffrey) de Craft who had married Walter's daughter Beatrice.<sup>13</sup> Further gifts of land in Bilton, making up the portion known as Dunchurch Grange and later sometimes described as a separate manor, were made by Roger's son, another Roger, in 1196.<sup>14</sup> This Roger took part in the rebellion led by Robert Fitzwalter against King John, for which he forfeited his lands, but was restored to them by Henry III.<sup>15</sup> In 1226 Roger de Craft was involved in a lawsuit with Roger Pantulf over rights of common pasture in Bilton, Newbold-on-Avon, and Little Lawford.<sup>16</sup> In 1235 Roger de Craft, perhaps his son, held one knight's fee in Bilton of the Earl of Arundel for 2 marks,<sup>17</sup> and in 1242 the same of Robert de St. John,<sup>18</sup> the earldom of Arundel being in abeyance at this time.<sup>19</sup> Part of the Craft estates, including Bilton, descended to the Charneles family by the marriage of Roger's daughter Beatrice with William de Charneles;<sup>20</sup> his son, Nicholas de Charneles, was implicated in the baronial



CHARNELES. *Azure a cross engrailed or.*



TRUSSELL. *Argent a cross paty gules.*

revolts of the later part of the reign of Henry III but was pardoned in 1268.<sup>21</sup> He entailed the manor on his son George and his heirs, with remainder to the heirs of his brother William, early in the reign of Edward I.<sup>22</sup> In 1309 George de Charneles granted the manor to Henry de Stodole, parson of Elmesthorpe (Leics.), for life, with remainder to the heirs of his son

<sup>7</sup> A drawing in the Aylesford Collection shows a small upright rectangular stone panel to the right of this window; of this there is no architectural trace, and it may perhaps be a draughtsman's error.

<sup>8</sup> It is not shown in the Aylesford Collection drawing.

<sup>9</sup> 1825 according to Bloxam, op. cit.

<sup>10</sup> *Dict. Nat. Biog.*; *F.C.H. Warwick*, ii, 362.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.* i, 307-8, 322.

<sup>12</sup> *Cal. Chart. R.* i, 206-8; Cott. MS. Calig. A. xiii, fol. 61.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.* fol. 61 v.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.* fol. 64.

<sup>15</sup> *Rot. Litt. Claus.* (Rec. Com.), i, 311.

<sup>16</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugl. Soc. xi), 390.

<sup>17</sup> *Bk. of Feet*, 509.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.* 950.

<sup>19</sup> *G.E.C. Complete Peerage* (2nd. ed.), i, 289.

<sup>20</sup> *F.C.H. Warwick*, iii, 93.

<sup>21</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1266-72, p. 222.

<sup>22</sup> *Dugl.* 27.

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

Nicholas Charneles and his wife Joan.<sup>23</sup> George was a knight of the shire for Warwickshire in the parliament of 1312.<sup>24</sup> In 1319-20 his widow Lucy held the manor in dower.<sup>25</sup> In 1339 his son Nicholas represented Warwickshire in parliament,<sup>26</sup> and in 1356 was appointed to put the Statute of Labourers into effect for the county.<sup>27</sup> His granddaughter Maud married Laurence Trussell of Kibblesome, Staffordshire, to whom the manor ultimately passed after a lawsuit.<sup>28</sup> John de Charneles of Bedworth had intruded into the manor, obtaining right of free warren for himself and his heirs<sup>29</sup> and falsely alleging that Edward, Prince of Wales, had died seized of the manor<sup>30</sup> having been enfeoffed by John de Charneles. Judgement was given in favour of Maud Trussell,<sup>31</sup> and in 1383 she and her husband entailed the manor on her heirs, with contingent remainder to the heirs of Joan wife of John Pauly.<sup>32</sup> In 1385 the Trussells leased the manor to Sir Ralph de Ferrers for life.<sup>33</sup> Laurence Trussell died in 1399<sup>34</sup> and Maud must have at once married Robert Litton, as they made a fresh settlement of the manor in 1400.<sup>35</sup>

In 1481 Sir William Trussell died seized of the manor, which was valued at £14 and was stated to be held of the Prior and Convent of Barnwell, Cambridge-shire.<sup>36</sup> At this time his son Edward was only 2 years old, and the manor came into the king's hands.<sup>37</sup> He died in 1499 when his daughter and ultimate heiress Elizabeth was still a minor, and his son John died, holding the manor of the Prior of Barnwell, in 1500.<sup>38</sup> Elizabeth was granted in wardship to John Vere, afterwards 15th Earl of Oxford, in 1507,<sup>39</sup> whose second wife she became, and to whose family the manor of Bilton passed for some 70 years. In 1574 Edward, Earl of Oxford, leased it to John, Lord Darcy,<sup>40</sup> and in 1580 he sold it to John Shuckburgh,<sup>41</sup> who immediately leased it to Edward Cordell.<sup>42</sup> John Shuckburgh died in 1599, having by deed of 8 November 1595 settled the manor on his sons Henry and Francis in tail male successively, with a jointure for Christian, the wife of Henry, who in 1599 was 35 years of age.<sup>43</sup> Henry Shuckburgh in turn sold the manor to Edward Boughton (who already held the portion of Bilton that had belonged to Pipewell Abbey) in 1610.<sup>44</sup> In 1620 Edward Boughton was granted free warren in Bilton.<sup>45</sup> In 1623 he, William his son and heir, and Thomas, another son, were dealing with the manor.<sup>46</sup> William and Thomas Boughton married two sisters, Abigail and Judith Baker of Shoebury, Essex, in 1623, when Edward Boughton settled the manor proper on William and the Pipewell lands on Thomas.<sup>47</sup> William, who was created a baronet in 1641,<sup>48</sup> also inherited the family estates at Little Lawford; Thomas, described as 'of Bilton' in the 1682-3 Visitation, presumably took over all the Bilton property on the death of his father

in 1640.<sup>49</sup> In 1711 Edward Boughton, grandson of Thomas, sold the manor to Joseph Addison, the poet and essayist, for £10,000.<sup>50</sup> Addison married the Countess of Warwick in 1716,<sup>51</sup> and after his death in 1719 she had the estate and was lady of the manor in 1730.<sup>52</sup> After her death in the next year her daughter, Charlotte Addison, inherited the estate; she died in 1797.<sup>53</sup> The manor had been acquired by John Simpson (third son of Henry Bridgeman, Lord Bradford) who had taken his mother's name of Simpson, in or before 1799, when he made a conveyance of it to George Bridgeman and Jonathan Heaton.<sup>54</sup> The Hon. John Bridgeman Simpson was the owner of Bilton Hall, and Capt. J. H. W. Hibbert of Bilton Grange (the former Pipewell estate) in 1850;<sup>55</sup> in 1900 Mr. G. H. O. Bridgeman was lord of the manor.<sup>56</sup> With the urbanization of the parish any surviving manorial rights appear to have lapsed.

**THE GRANGE**, the portion of the parish given to Pipewell Abbey, is sometimes described as a separate manor. According to Dugdale it was usually known as Dunchurch Grange although locally situate in Bilton.<sup>57</sup> This estate had been demised by the abbot of Pipewell to Richard Boughton, William Boughton, and Agnes his wife for their lives and for the term of 99 years, in the reign of Richard III.<sup>58</sup> In 1542 it was granted, with other Pipewell property in Warwickshire, to Edward Boughton for a rent of £2 8s. 8d., in exchange for the manor house of Kempston Hardwicke and other property in Bedfordshire.<sup>59</sup> In 1596 it was leased by Edward Boughton to Sir Thomas Conyngsby and Thomas Morgan,<sup>60</sup> and from 1610, when the Boughton family gained possession of the manor of Bilton itself, it has descended with that manor.

The parish church of **ST. MARK** consists of a chancel (40 ft. by 22 ft.), vestry, north chapel (13 ft. 6 in. by 16 ft.), nave (45 ft. 9 in. by 32 ft.), north aisle (46 ft. 6 in. by 15 ft. 6 in.), west tower (14 ft. 6 in. by 11 ft. 6 in.), and north and south porches. All dimensions are internal.

The chancel, nave, and west tower are of the mid-14th century; the south porch was added in the early 19th century, possibly in 1821 when the then east window was altered; the north aisle was added at the general restoration in 1873 by G. F. Bodley.

The chancel has a large, pointed east window of six lights inserted, as indicated externally by a stone on its south side, in 1873. On the north side is a similar stone bearing the date 1609.<sup>61</sup> Internally there is a hood-



ADDISON. *Ermine a bend gules with three annulets or thereon and on a chief azure three leopards' heads or.*

<sup>23</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xv), 1283.

<sup>24</sup> Dugd. 27.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid., quoting records of dean and chapter of Lichfield.

<sup>26</sup> Close R. 13 Edw. III, pt. 1, m. 43 d.

<sup>27</sup> Cal. Pat. 1354-8, p. 494.

<sup>28</sup> Dugd. 26, 28.

<sup>29</sup> Cal. Chart. R. v, 184.

<sup>30</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. 50 Edw. III, no. 70;

Rot. Parl. iii, 54.

<sup>31</sup> Cal. Close, 1377-81, pp. 40-1

<sup>32</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xviii), 2287.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid. 2298.

<sup>34</sup> Cal. Fine R. xi, 305.

<sup>35</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xviii), 2382.

<sup>36</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. 20 Edw. IV, no. 83.

<sup>37</sup> Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII, ii, 410, 416.

<sup>38</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), xi, 43.

<sup>39</sup> Cal. Pat. 1494-1509, p. 542.

<sup>40</sup> Recov. R. Trin. 16 Eliz. ro. 522.

<sup>41</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Trin. 22 Eliz.

<sup>42</sup> Recov. R. Hil. 22 Eliz. ro. 104.

<sup>43</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cclix, 39.

<sup>44</sup> Feet of F. Warw. East. 6 Jas. I.

<sup>45</sup> Pat. 18 Jas. I, pt. 15, no. 16.

<sup>46</sup> Ibid. 21 Jas. I.

<sup>47</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), ccccxxii,

136.

<sup>48</sup> Visit. Warw. 1682-3 (Harl. Soc.

lxiii), 114.

<sup>49</sup> Ibid.

<sup>50</sup> Dugd. 28; Complete Peerage (1st ed.),

viii, 69.

<sup>51</sup> Dict. Nat. Biog.

<sup>52</sup> Dugd. 28.

<sup>53</sup> Complete Peerage (1st ed.), viii, 69.

<sup>54</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Trin. 39 Geo. III.

<sup>55</sup> White's Directory (1850).

<sup>56</sup> Kelly (1900).

<sup>57</sup> Dugd. 27.

<sup>58</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. 1 Edw. V, 85-5;

Wards and L. Inq. p.m. 3-74.

<sup>59</sup> L. & P. Hen. VIII, xvii, 159.

<sup>60</sup> Feet of F. Warw. 38 Eliz.

<sup>61</sup> At this date 'the rich flowing tracery

of the original east window . . . having

been destroyed, an insertion was made . . .

of a plain and clumsy square-headed

window, divided by mullions with six

mould with head-stops re-used from the original window. The east wall,<sup>62</sup> like all the 14th-century work, is of coursed red sandstone ashlar with fairly wide joints. The top part of the wall is of modern masonry and some part of the remainder has been scraped during the 19th-century restoration. Below the window is a string-course, and beneath it under the east window a single course of modern masonry, indicating the position of the east window which was inserted in 1821,<sup>63</sup> replacing that of 1609, and which in 1873 was removed to the west end of the north aisle. There are square buttresses of two offsets at the angles and a double plinth about 3 ft. high continues around them and on to the north and south walls.

The north wall has a two-centred window of three trefoiled lights with chamfered jambs and mullions. The central light has an ogee head, the others elliptical heads; above them is cusped pear-shaped tracery and a quatrefoil, and there is a hood-mould with weathered head-stops. Internally it has slightly splayed jambs and a hood-mould with a head-stop at the east side only. To the west of the window is visible the profile of a buttress now embodied in the wall of the modern vestry. Like the other ancient intermediate buttresses of both chancel and nave it was of three offsets, the top one being of very slight projection, so imparting to the topmost stage of the buttress the character of a flat pilaster. Inside, beneath the window and to the west of it, is a cinquefoiled ogee-headed tomb recess. Each main foil itself carries a trefoil; the head is of three moulded orders with a hood-mould. It is crocketed, with a finial, some of the crockets on the east side being cut away to allow of the insertion of panelling and others on the west for the organ. Inside the recess is now a stone tablet stating that 'This Vault was made at the charge of William Boughton Esq.'; the date is obscured, but the lettering appears to be of early-18th-century date. The recess is said by M. H. Bloxam<sup>64</sup> to have been both a founder's tomb and an Easter Sepulchre. The doorway from the chancel into the modern vestry, originally a priest's door, has moulded jambs and two-centred head, and on the south side a hood-mould with head-stops. The masonry of the reveals is ancient on the east side, modern on the west, where it is plastered. There are no signs on the chancel side of rebates for hinges, and the suggestion<sup>65</sup> that the door was reversed when the vestry was built is probably correct. West of it is an arch to the north chapel, of two orders, chamfered in the jambs and having a swelled chamfer in the head. It, like the north chapel, was built in 1873.

The south wall of the chancel is divided by buttresses into three bays with a window in each. The easternmost window resembles that in the north wall; it has restored mullions and an ancient external hood-mould with stops, of which the eastern shows the beginnings of carving and the western is an untouched square block. The head of the rear-arch is chamfered and there is an internal hood-mould. Three sedilia extend the full width of the jambs of the rear-arch; their heads rise above the ledge of the window. They are entirely of modern masonry. Slightly to the east is a piscina having a modern cinquefoiled ogee-head

with a hood-mould stopped on heads, and an ancient cinquefoiled bowl, part of which is in a projecting stone of tapering semi-octagonal form. The middle bay contains a window of three trefoiled ogee-headed lights with cusped net tracery under a two-centred head. The restored jambs and mullions are chamfered and there is a hood-mould stopped on the east by a badly weathered human mask, on the west by a grotesque mask with large ears. There is also an internal hood-mould with head-stops and the rear-arch has a pointed chamfered head. The ledges of this window and the string-courses which are immediately below them are raised a little higher than those in the adjacent bays in order to clear the head of a doorway. The doorway is moulded with two swelled chamfers in the jambs and two-centred head, and has a rear-arch with a chamfered segmental-pointed head. The jamb mouldings are much worn at the foot, and the head is partly restored. Both inside and outside there are hood-moulds, the apexes of which join the string-courses. That inside is of pointed segmental form with head-stops, on the east a man with protruding tongue, wearing a cowl, on the west a grinning mask. The third bay has a window like that in the first; the tracery is modern, and the lower part is blocked because there are high-backed modern choir-stalls inside. The hood-moulds have head-stops, those outside being grotesques. Below the string-course and beneath the westernmost light of the window is a small blocked square opening. This 'low-side' window is chamfered externally; a hood-mould is formed by two short vertical projections from the string-course. The choir-stalls conceal the internal form of the window. The plinth, which on the south chancel wall is broken only by the priest's door, terminates on the south face of the westernmost buttress.

The north wall of the north chapel is continuous with that of the aisle, and like it, is of re-used 14th-century sandstone ashlar. It has a window like the middle bay of the south chancel wall; the hood-mould and jambs appear to be for the most part ancient masonry re-used. There is a modern parclose screen; but the only architectural division between chapel and aisle is a formerly external buttress, east of which a short piece of the original string-course still remains.

The 14th-century chancel arch is two-centred, of two chamfered orders continuing unbroken into the responds, which have chamfered bases. From a height of 4 ft. above the floor the inner order has a double chamfer. In the arch are several repairs in brown stone indicating the position of beams connected with the screen and rood-loft. A rood-loft altar was discovered during the restoration.<sup>66</sup>

The nave has a north arcade, built in 1873, of three 11½-ft. bays and irregular octagonal piers, the cardinal faces being wider than the others. The arches are moulded with two swelled chamfers.

The south wall of the nave has at the east end a trefoiled ogee-headed piscina with a damaged quatrefoil bowl. The eastern window has net tracery, the western pear-shaped tracery; they are in all respects like the windows of those respective forms described above. The plinth and string-course are about 1 ft. higher than

lights, obtusely arched in the heads, but without foliations': M. H. Bloxam, *Principles of Gothic Ecclesiastical Architecture*, i, 287.

<sup>62</sup> There is an aumbry in the east wall,

according to the information boards in the church. It is now hidden by panelling.

<sup>63</sup> In the vestry is a photograph of the interior taken before 1872 and showing this window in its original position in the

east wall.

<sup>64</sup> Op. cit. ii, 120.

<sup>65</sup> J. A. Cossin (MS.), 'Notes on Warwickshire Churches' (B.R.L.).

<sup>66</sup> Bloxam, op. cit. ii, 142.

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

on the chancel wall. The third bay has a stuccoed modern porch in front of the south doorway; the latter is probably a poor copy, done in the early 19th century, of the 14th-century original. There is a buttress at the south-east angle.

The original north wall of the nave, of three bays, was re-erected to form the north wall of the aisle. The eastern window has pear-shaped, and the western net tracery in the head; they are like the eastern and middle windows, respectively, in the south wall of the chancel. Only the jambs are ancient; the restored external hood-moulds are stopped with square blocks. The third bay contains the north doorway, of two orders, each a swelled chamfer, having a hood-mould stopped with uncarved square blocks. In the jambs of the rear-arch are still two large holes for a sliding bar. The brick and timber porch is modern. The west wall of the aisle is entirely modern and contains a window of three lights with net tracery in a two-centred head, removed from the east end of the chancel in 1873. The ancient north-west angle buttress of the nave, partially concealed by the west wall of the north aisle, is visible outside.

All the roofs are modern.

The two-centred tower arch is of three chamfered orders which on the west side die into the walls.

The battlemented west tower<sup>67</sup> has a moulded plinth, of the same profile as that of the nave but rather higher, and is divided externally into two stages by a moulded string-course. It has angle buttresses and a north-east stair vice which overhangs at the base, where it is carved with a grotesque head. The buttresses, of four offsets, have at the top semicircular hollow niches with much-worn projecting bases which are surmounted by gabled heads; the latter have on the face blind traceried cinquefoils and are crocketed with finials. The copings slope up to the wall behind them. The openings of the north and south walls are similar. At the top of the first stage is a pointed window containing a trefoiled ogee-headed light with a hood-mould stopped on heads; the western head-stop on the north side has disappeared. At the same level in the stair vice is a narrow square-headed window with chamfered jambs and head, and at the top is a similar but smaller window. Above the string-course is a pointed louvred window. The west face of the tower has a window of two cinquefoiled elliptical-headed lights with cusped pear-shaped tracery under a two-centred head which, with the jambs, is chamfered. All the tracery and mullions are modern; the jambs and hood-mould with its uncarved stops are ancient. The rear-arch has a chamfered two-centred head. The windows above are similar to those in the north face. The east face has only the top window. In the north-east, south-west, and south-east angles of the tower are the original vault ribs, chamfered and resting on tapered corbels. Below the external cove at the top of the tower are gargoyles and carvings. On the north face at the west end is a much-weathered quadruped animal. The south face has a shield bearing a cross engrailed with supporters. The east face is carved with two animals, a ? monkey, and a ? frog. There is an octagonal spire with two ranges of lights, each of which

has two trefoiled pointed openings with a recessed quatrefoil under a gabled head.

The octagonal font is of the later 14th century; the panels of the bowl alternate in the form of their decoration, one having quatrefoiled roundels, the other two trefoiled ogee-headed panels. The blind tracery is throughout flush with the sides of the bowl, giving it the appearance of being unfinished.

There are in the nave two chandeliers, said to be 17th-century Dutch work and to have come from Bois-le-Duc (S'Hertogenbosch).

The organ case<sup>68</sup> came from St. John's College, Cambridge, about 1868. It was built by Robert Dallam c. 1635-6 and despite sundry alterations now presents almost its original appearance. It is of oak, with gilt ornaments, among which are the Tudor rose and portcullis, emblems of the founders of the College.

The altar rails are said to have come from Great St. Mary's, Cambridge,<sup>69</sup> and are of the 17th century.

There are fragments of medieval glass made up with modern glass in the north window of the chancel. The old pews were at the restoration used to form panelling around the church.

The bells, which were re-hung in 1948, are as follows:<sup>70</sup> (1) Treble Memorial bell, inscribed with the names of the fallen, 1939-45; by John Taylor of Loughborough, 1948; (2) Gift of the Countess of Warwick, 1722, by Richard Sander of Bromsgrove; (3) by John Sturdy or John Kebyle of London, c. 1450; (4) and (5) by John Danyell of London, c. 1460; (6) Tenor, by Henry Bagley of Chacombe, 1682.

The registers begin in 1655.

There was a priest at Bilton in *AD FOWSON* 1086,<sup>71</sup> and late in the 12th century Roger de Craft and Beatrice gave to Pipewell Abbey 2 acres belonging to the church of Bilton adjoining the grange of Dunchurch, to hold by paying the rector 4d. or a pair of cowhide boots.<sup>72</sup> The advowson was included in the settlement of the manor made in 1310 by George de Charnelles,<sup>73</sup> and similarly the advowson was wrongfully alleged to be held, with the manor, by Edward, Prince of Wales, in 1376.<sup>74</sup> It so descended from the Charnelles to the Trussell family and their successors the Earls of Oxford, or their lessees in the manor, except in the latter part of the 16th and early 17th century, during which period grants of the advowson without the manor were made to Alice Worcester, widow, of Bilton, who presented in 1558 and 1559,<sup>75</sup> to Francis Bosworth by Henry Shuckburgh and his wife Elizabeth in 1608,<sup>76</sup> and to William Riplingham or Replingham, who presented in 1621 'by reason of the advowson granted to him'.<sup>76</sup> Dugdale states that this grant was made by the Earls of Oxford, but the manor and advowson had already passed through the hands of the Shuckburgh family to the Boughtons, the then owners. Edward Boughton died seized of the manor and advowson in 1625.<sup>77</sup> While the manor went to his younger son Thomas, the advowson seems to have gone to the elder son Sir William. In 1705 Sir John Sandys presented Henry Holyoake,<sup>78</sup> head master of Rugby School, and in 1731 William Adams made a presentation,<sup>79</sup> but these were probably under grants of a turn, as in 1745 the patron

<sup>67</sup> It originally had four pinnacles, as shown in a drawing (c. 1820) in the Aylestone Collection.

<sup>68</sup> Rev. A. Freeman, *English Organ Cases* (1921), 36-7.

<sup>69</sup> Inf. on boards in church.

<sup>70</sup> Taken from a pamphlet in the tower, printed on the occasion of re-hanging.

<sup>71</sup> *P.C.H. Warw.* i, 308.

<sup>72</sup> Cott. MS. Calig. A. xiii, fol. 62.

<sup>73</sup> *Fret of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xv), 1283.

<sup>74</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. 50 Edw. III, no. 70.

<sup>75</sup> Dugd. 28.

<sup>76</sup> Recov. R. East. 6 Jas. I, ro. 55

<sup>77</sup> Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.).

<sup>78</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccxxxii,

116.

<sup>79</sup> Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.).



was said to be Sir William (? Edward) Boughton;<sup>80</sup> in 1759 Anna Boughton, a minor,<sup>81</sup> and in 1763 Sir Edward Boughton.<sup>82</sup> In the first half of the reign of George III the Hume family were in possession, Alexander Hume and his wife and William Caldecott and his wife conveying it in 1768 to Thomas Caldecott and others.<sup>83</sup> Alexander Hume was patron in 1784,<sup>84</sup> and Abraham Hume granted it to the Rev. Jonathan Parker in 1795.<sup>85</sup> Between 1817<sup>86</sup> and 1856<sup>87</sup> the Rev. J. T. Parker was rector and patron, as was Richard Orme Assheton from 1862 to 1900, and his son the Rev. W. O. Assheton as late as 1940.<sup>88</sup>

The patronage of St. Oswald's Church, New Bilton, erected in 1867, was in 1915<sup>89</sup> in the hands of the Trustees of the late R. H. Wood, and from 1926 of the Bishop of Coventry.<sup>90</sup>

The rectory was valued in 1291 at £691 and in 1535 at £16 10s. 6d.<sup>92</sup>

**Poor's Land.** By a decree of the *CHARITIES* Court of Chancery dated 10 July 1661 an agreement for inclosing the fields, meadow ground, commons, and heath ground in Bilton, then lying open, was confirmed. By the agreement a plot of heath land containing 42 acres adjoining to Causton Lordship was allotted and set out for the use of the poor of the town.

Langton Freeman by will dated in 1783 gave £20, the interest for the use of the poor inhabitants of Bilton.

Charlotte, Countess of Warwick and Holland. It is recorded on a tablet in the church that she left £10 a year out of her estate in Bilton to the churchwardens and overseers for the use of the poor.

William Smith by a codicil to his will dated 23 August 1711, charged certain property at Kites Hardwick and Thurlaston in the parishes of Leamington Hastings and Dunchurch with the yearly sum of 4s. to the poor of each of the parishes of Dunchurch, Bourton, Leamington, Birdingbury, Grandborough, Stretton-upon-Dunsmoor, Stockton, Nether Shuckborough, Bilton, and Long Lawford, to be paid on Easter Day to the churchwardens and overseers of the poor of the several parishes, to be laid out in bread and distributed among the poorest people of the parishes. The rent-charge was redeemed in 1905 in consideration of the sum of £80 Consols, producing an annual income of £2.

William Butlin by will dated 15 August 1832 bequeathed to the churchwardens and overseers of the poor of the parishes of Rugby, Bilton, and Barby, respectively, the sum of £50 for each parish, the interest to be applied as near to Christmas day as conveniently might be, in purchasing and distributing bread amongst the poor of the said parishes.

The above-mentioned charities are regulated by Schemes of the Charity Commissioners dated 8 January 1878 and 10 October 1933 which appoint a body of Trustees to apply the income of the charities, under various heads, for the benefit of the poor of the parish. The annual income of the charities amounts to £180 approximately.

**Church Land.** The endowment of this charity, the origin of which is unknown, consists of a close of land in this parish containing 2½ acres, the rent of which is applied by the churchwardens for church purposes.

## BINLEY

Acreeage: (before 1931) 1,688; (after 1932) 865.

Population: 1911, 220; 1921, 835; 1931, 564 (on pre-1931 area, 3,189).

Binley is a village 3 miles east of Coventry on the road to Lutterworth, which here makes two sharp bends, around which the nucleus of the village lies, and from which branch roads radiate to Walsgrave on the north, Brandon on the south-east, and Baginton on the south-west. The area of the parish has undergone changes in the present century, a large part having been transferred to the City of Coventry<sup>1</sup> and other parts to the parishes of Baginton and Combe Fields.<sup>2</sup> The surface is fairly level, varying from 311 ft. in the south-east to 225 ft. at Binley Bridge on the west. This bridge, which carries the main road over the River Sowe, was 'very ruinous' in 1669, when £100 was ordered to be collected for the repair of the 'portion in Warwickshire' (the remainder being in the County of the City of Coventry). Higher up the river, near the village, is Binley Corn Mill. The south-east portion of the parish has extensive woodlands, and the Rugby-Birmingham line of the former L.M.S. Railway skirts the southern edge, but there is no station. Near the railway is Binley Colliery, at present the most easterly pit of the Warwickshire coalfield. This, and the proximity of the city of Coventry, have caused much residential development in the present century.

A survey of the manor of Binley, temp. James I,<sup>3</sup> gives the names of the tenants and the extent and value of their holdings. The bounds of the manor are there stated to run from Binley Bridge to Ernesford, thence to Mynolds Gate, eastward to Brawns Park and Brawns Common Gate, northwards to Combe and to Colly Bridge, thence as far as Wasbrow Gate and along the Sowe to Binley Mill and back to the bridge, a circuit by estimation of 2½ miles.

**BINLEY** was originally a 5-hide vill; **MANOR** 3 hides, which had formerly been in possession of Ealgyth, wife of Griffith of North Wales, being held in 1086 by the Cathedral Priory of Coventry, who had bought them from Osbern son of Richard; the other 2 hides were held both in the time of Edward the Confessor and in 1086 by Hadulf of Turchil of Warwick.<sup>4</sup>

The overlordship of the Coventry portion remained connected with Osbern's honor of Richard's Castle on the Welsh border. In 1211-12 David de Lindsey held a quarter of a knight's fee in Binley of this honor,<sup>5</sup> and in 1235-6 a similar amount was held by an unnamed tenant of William de Stutevill,<sup>6</sup> then in possession of Richard's Castle.<sup>7</sup> In 1242-3 the Abbot of Combe and Geoffrey de Binley are entered as tenants of the honor,<sup>8</sup> and in 1279 the abbot was stated to hold a quarter-fee of Geoffrey, who held of Robert de

<sup>80</sup> *The Clergyman's Intelligencer*, 22.

<sup>81</sup> *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.).

<sup>82</sup> *Eaton, Thesaurus*, 94.

<sup>83</sup> Feet of F. Warw., Hil. 8 Geo. III.

<sup>84</sup> *Bacon, Liber Regis*, 218.

<sup>85</sup> *Recov. R. Trin.* 35 Geo. III, ro. 49.

<sup>86</sup> *Clerical Guide*.

<sup>87</sup> *Clergy List*, 1859.

<sup>88</sup> *Clergy List*.

<sup>89</sup> *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 242.

<sup>90</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 62.

<sup>1</sup> Coventry Extension Act, 1931.

<sup>2</sup> Warwickshire Review Order, 1932.

<sup>3</sup> *Warw. Co. Records*, iv, 122-3.

<sup>4</sup> *Rentals and Surveys* (P.R.O.), Portf.

26, no. 66.

<sup>5</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* i, 304, 323.

<sup>6</sup> *Red Bk. of Exch.* (Rolls Ser.), 604.

<sup>7</sup> *Bk. of Feet*, 509.

<sup>8</sup> *Evening. Antiquary. Shropshire*, iv, 315.

<sup>9</sup> *Bk. of Feet*, 948.

Mortimer (of Richard's Castle).<sup>10</sup> This holding began with a grant to Combe by Joceline and Robert, sons of Ralph de Binley, of a hide of land (apparently at Binley Common) rated as  $\frac{1}{2}$  knight's fee.<sup>11</sup> Geoffrey son of Robert son of Joceline, confirmed to the abbey in detail lands in the west, south, and north fields.<sup>12</sup> Laurence, Prior of Coventry in the middle of the 12th century, had also given half a hide to be held in frank almoign at a yearly rent of 8s.<sup>13</sup> In 1287 it was stated that the Abbot of Combe held half the manor of Binley and the Prior of Coventry a free chapel, of Robert de Mortimer.<sup>14</sup> In 1307 the Abbot of Combe was returned as having held half a knight's fee in Binley of Hugh de Mortimer of Richard's Castle,<sup>15</sup> who had died in 1304,<sup>16</sup> and in 1401<sup>17</sup> and 1407<sup>18</sup> it was held of the Earl and Countess of Warwick respectively. A few years later the Prior of Coventry was said to be lord of one quarter of Binley, having a messuage and a virgate of land which Henry de Rokeby and Michael de Grenburgh gave for Michael's obit.<sup>19</sup>

A long series of licences to alienate land in mortmain to the abbey of Combe<sup>20</sup> left little of the original estate in possession of Coventry priory, whose lands in Binley in 1535 were worth only £1 6s. as compared with the Combe holding of £13 19s. 8d. value.<sup>21</sup> The remaining Coventry lands were after the Dissolution granted, in 1544, to Robert Burgoyne and John Scudamore. They then consisted only of the holding of Richard Hall of Winnall and Agnes his wife, including two crofts formerly in the possession of Nicholas Tailleur and John Elton.<sup>22</sup>

The 2 hides held from Turchil by Hadulf passed to Thurbert son of Hadulf (*Hadheltolff*) who gave the land, described as stretching from the stream of Ebleswelle<sup>23</sup> to the borders of Smite (i.e. Combe Fields), to the monks of Combe, his gift being confirmed between 1149 and 1153 by Robert Basset,<sup>24</sup> and by Henry de Arderne,<sup>25</sup> who held mesne lordships here. Henry de Rokeby, son of Thurbert de Binley, confirmed his father's gift and added a moiety of his grove of Munchet and the mill of Binley<sup>26</sup> (which Hadulf held in 1086). His son Henry remitted his claims to the mill, its pond, and the monks' meadow from the upper issue of the pond over the mill-bay as far as the entry of the stream below the mill, conditionally on their not swamping his hay.<sup>27</sup> William Basset confirmed the grants made in his fee,<sup>28</sup> and in 1279 the Abbot of Combe held a quarter-fee of Henry de Rokeby,<sup>29</sup> who held of Ralph Basset of Sapcote, who held of Thomas de Arderne under the Earl of Warwick.<sup>30</sup> In 1291 the abbey's grange of Binley contained 2 carucates of demesne land, worth 50s., rents to the value of £4, stock worth £2 10s., and a windmill valued at 6s. 8d.<sup>31</sup> At this time the abbey had also the

grange of Ernesford, where was a carucate of land, with waste attached, worth 10s., and stock valued at £2.<sup>32</sup> About 1410 Combe was said to have a manor in Binley and also a manor of Ernesford in the same parish;<sup>33</sup> but the latter was never manorial, and in 1544 it was granted as a grange to Thomas Broke, merchant tailor of London, and John Wyllyams,<sup>34</sup> and later in that year was conveyed to Christopher Warren,<sup>35</sup> whose namesake also acquired the Coventry Priory land in 1603 from William Cave,<sup>36</sup> to whom they had been sold by Robert Burgoyne.<sup>37</sup> The manor of Binley, however, after the Dissolution was granted in 1539 to Mary, Duchess of Richmond,<sup>38</sup> and has since descended with the estate of Combe Abbey (q.v.).

Other portions of Binley were held by local religious houses before the Dissolution. In 1279 the Hospitallers of Grafton held a small estate under Combe Abbey,<sup>39</sup> but no more appears to be known of it. In 1542 2½ acres of meadow beside the bridge, which had belonged to the Coventry Charterhouse, were granted to Richard Andrewys and Leonard Chamberleyne,<sup>40</sup> who sold the freehold to Henry Waver or Over;<sup>41</sup> in the following year a 21-year lease of these lands was made to Elizabeth Foxall.<sup>42</sup> The lands in Binley formerly held by St. John Baptist Hospital, Coventry, which in 1535 produced 32s. 4d. in rents,<sup>43</sup> were in 1545 granted to John Hales.<sup>44</sup>

The church of ST. BARTHOLOMEW CHURCH is situated at a road junction in the middle of the village, standing in a long but narrow churchyard. It is a small church of severe classic design and consists of an apsidal chancel, nave, north chapel, vestry, and porch. It was built at the expense of William, Lord Craven, and completed in 1773.<sup>44a</sup> It is built of a light-coloured stone, now washed over with cement, and the roofs are slate-covered, with projecting eaves. The west end has a slightly projecting central portico with a moulded pediment in line with that of the nave wall. The entrance has columns of the Doric order on either side with half-columns as pilasters, supporting an entablature, over which there is a shallow round-headed recess with a lunette. Above the recess there is a clock dial and on either side of the pediment a vase on a square pedestal. On both sides there is a plain round-headed window with a plain flat string-course at sill level, and above each window there is a shallow rectangular sunk panel. At the west end of the nave there are cupboards on the north side and a staircase to a gallery on the south, formed by a cross wall to support the stone cupola. The cupola is octagonal with a moulded cornice and crowned with a circular dome finished with a ball finial and a weather vane; it rests on a square pedestal with a moulded capping, and has windows on the cardinal faces and dummy windows

<sup>10</sup> Exch. K.R. Misc. Bks. 15, fol. 47v.

<sup>11</sup> Cott. MS. Vitell. A.I, fol. 44.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid. fol. 47.

<sup>13</sup> Dugd. 225, quoting Reg. of Combe, fol. 39a.

<sup>14</sup> Cal. Inq. p.m. ii, 640 (p. 395).

<sup>15</sup> Ibid. v, 58 (p. 25).

<sup>16</sup> G.E.C. *Complete Peerage* (2nd ed.), ix, 265. Richard's Castle passed to his elder daughter Joan, who married Richard Talbot.

<sup>17</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. 2 Hen. IV, no. 58.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid. 8 Hen. IV, no. 68.

<sup>19</sup> Exch. Misc. Bks. K.R. 21, fol. 69v.

<sup>20</sup> Cal. Pat. 1281-92, pp. 375, 427; ibid. 1292-1301, p. 443; ibid. 1340-3, p. 92; ibid. 1348-50, p. 469.

<sup>21</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 50, 54.

<sup>22</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xix (2), 800 (12).

<sup>23</sup> Perhaps the stream just north of

Ernesford Grange.

<sup>24</sup> Cott. MS. Vitell. A.I, fol. 42v.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid. 45.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid. 44v.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid. 45.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid. 46v.

<sup>29</sup> Probably son of the Henry who held the quarter-fee of the Earl of Warwick in 1235: *Bk. of Fees*, 509.

<sup>30</sup> Exch. K.R. Misc. Bks. 15, fol. 47.

<sup>31</sup> *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 255.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid. Binley and Ernesford were among the places where Combe had free warren in 1290: *Cal. Chart. R.* ii, 343.

<sup>33</sup> Exch. K.R. Misc. Bks. 21, fol. 70.

<sup>34</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xix (2), 527 (2).

<sup>35</sup> Ibid. 69c (67).

<sup>36</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 1 Jas. I.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid. East. 43 Eliz.

<sup>38</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xiv (1), 595.

<sup>39</sup> Exch. K.R. Misc. Bks. 15, fol. 48.

<sup>40</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xviii, 443 (39, para. 50).

<sup>41</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cxlv, 4.

<sup>42</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xviii (1), p. 550.

<sup>43</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 52.

<sup>44</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xx (1), 1335 (39).

<sup>44a</sup> It has been attributed to Robert Adam: M. Whiffen, *Stuart and Georgian Churches outside London*, 48. We are indebted to the vicar of Binley, the Rev. K. N. Bell, for this reference and for other information.



on the others. The south side has three windows and the flat string is continued. The north side has two similar windows, and towards the east end it is flanked by a building with a portico on the north with a moulded pediment supported on two columns of the Doric order. This porch leads into the vestry, beyond which is the chapel, with a round-headed window on the east and a dummy on the west to correspond. Externally the apse is quite plain and is lighted by a single window; the string-course is omitted.

The chancel is 16 ft. wide, with a radius of 7 ft. 3 in. The floor is of white marble with black circles in a radial pattern. The walls are decorated with rectangular moulded panels, one each side of the altar, and the ceiling, which is coved, is decorated with gilt stars on a blue background and gilt radiations from a dove in relief. The east window, said to have been painted by William Peckitt of York, represents the Madonna and Child. There is one step to the altar, which is a marble slab fixed to the wall and supported in front on two legs. The entrance to the apse has two alabaster columns with carved capitals and half-columns as pilasters with an entablature supporting a slightly cambered lintel. On each side of the entrance, which is closed with contemporary rails, there is a coved round-headed niche.

The chapel (14 ft. by 14 ft.) has an open alabaster screen of the Ionic order, the frieze carved with swags. The ceiling is slightly coved and decorated with an oval of bay leaves in low relief, with a central rosette, medallions, and sprays of leaves. The walls are made out in panels with plaster mouldings.

The nave (48 ft. 6 in. by 21 ft.) ceiling is similar to that of the chapel. The walls, between the windows, have medallions with swags of leaves tied with ribbons.<sup>44b</sup> Over the entrance to the apse there is the Craven shield and crest with swags held at each end by a wyvern. Across the west end there is a small gallery with an

oak-pannelled front. The pulpit, placed on the south side of the chancel, is of oak, open pannelled with turned balusters and an egg-and-tongue capping. Also on the south side at the west end is the font, a small octagonal one of stone, each side decorated with a sunk quatrefoil, and resting on a marble shaft with a form of Ionic capital. The floor is black and white marble, boarded under modern varnished oak seating.

There is one bell,<sup>45</sup> dated 1728, by Joseph Smith.

The plate consists of a silver gilt flagon, chalice, and two patens, the gift of the Rt. Hon. Lord Craven, 1773.

The registers commence 1656.

Ranulf, Earl of Chester, in the reign *AD* FOWSON of Henry I granted to the priory of Coventry the church of St. Michael, Coventry, with its chapels, including that of Binley,<sup>46</sup> which grant was confirmed by his grandson Earl Ranulph in 1192.<sup>47</sup> It remained in the hands of the priory until the Dissolution, after which the 'rectory', presumably including the right of appointing to the chaplaincy, passed with the Coventry lands in Binley to the Burgoynes and in 1603 to Christopher Warren.<sup>48</sup> By 1730 the chapel was a donative in the gift of the Earl of Craven,<sup>49</sup> with whose descendants it remained until shortly before 1929, when it became a perpetual curacy in the gift of the Bishop of Coventry.<sup>50</sup>

It is recorded that William, Earl *CHARITIES* Craven, gave by his will £100 to the parish where he should be buried. He died in April 1697 and was buried at Binley.

It appears that in 1755 Stephen Sleamaker gave £10, which was added to the above-mentioned bequest.

The charities are now regulated by schemes of the Charity Commissioners dated 19 December 1924 and 10 November 1933 which appoint a body of trustees to apply the income of the charities under various heads for the general benefit of the poor of the parish. The annual income of the charities amounts to £2 7s. 8d.

## BIRDINGBURY

Acreage: 1,063.

Population: 1911, 209; 1921, 163; 1931, 186.

The northern boundary of the parish is formed by the River Leam, and the eastern by a small stream which runs into that river. Birdingbury Hall stands on a slight hill overlooking the Leam, to whose banks its grounds slope down. South of the Hall is the church, and the village lies farther south round a road which runs south-west to Long Itchington, and another, crossing it at right angles, from Marton to Leamington Hastings. The houses are mostly modern, of brick, but there are a few of timber-framing with thatched roofs. Another road runs due south from the village for 2 miles to Birdingbury Wharf on the Warwick and Napton Canal, which crosses the southernmost projection of the parish. To the north of the village the Leam is crossed by the road and by the Rugby and Leamington branch of the L.M.S. Railway, Birdingbury Station being just over the boundary in Frankton parish. Near this bridge was the mill referred to in 1200,<sup>1</sup> and mentioned in 1315 as appurtenant to the manor.<sup>2</sup>

Henry Homer<sup>3</sup> was rector of Birdingbury from 1764 until his death in 1791, being also incumbent of Willoughby and Anstey and chaplain to Edward, Lord Leigh. He wrote with acumen on the subjects of open fields, public roads, and inland navigation, on all of which his views were in advance of his time. He also produced seventeen children, of whom three figure in the *Dictionary of National Biography*—Henry (the eldest) was a notable classical scholar, but his chief connexion with Birdingbury is that he died there in May 1791, a few months before his father; Arthur (4th son) compiled a *Bibliographica Americana* and died in 1806; Philip Bracebridge (10th son) was born in the Rectory in 1765, was a classical scholar and poet, and became master and fellow of Rugby School, where he died in 1838.

*BIRDINGBURY* was among the *MANORS* twenty-four vills which Earl Leofric bestowed upon the monastery of Coventry, his gift being confirmed by Edward the Confessor in 1043.<sup>4</sup> Accordingly the Domesday Survey shows the Church of Coventry holding 2 hides in Birdingbury

<sup>44b</sup> The church was redecorated in 1950, when a pale pink background (believed to have been the original colour) was substituted for the then existing green.

<sup>45</sup> Tilley and Walters, *Church Bells of*

*Warw.*, 115.

<sup>46</sup> *Cal. Chart. R.* v, 102.

<sup>47</sup> *Ibid.* 103.

<sup>48</sup> Feet of F. Warw. East. 43 Eliz.;

Mich. 1 Jas. I.

<sup>49</sup> Dugd. 227.

<sup>50</sup> *Clergy List*.

<sup>1</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xi), 42.

<sup>2</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* vi, 384.

<sup>3</sup> *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

<sup>4</sup> Kemble, *Cod. Dipl.* nos. 916, 939.

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

(corrupted by the scribe into 'Derbingerie');<sup>5</sup> and the manor and church were among the possessions of the priory taken under his protection in 1221 by Pope Honorius III.<sup>6</sup> By 1242 Henry de Hastings was holding the manor of the Prior of Coventry.<sup>7</sup> On his death custody of the manor during the minority of his son Henry was assigned in 1251 to Stephen Baughan.<sup>8</sup> This Henry, as a leading rebel, forfeited his lands in 1265, and this manor, valued at £12, was first granted to John de Warenne but was apparently among those committed 'of grace' to Henry's wife Joan.<sup>9</sup> Under the *Dictum* of Kenilworth Henry recovered his lands, and in 1285 his son John established his rights to view of frank-pledge and other franchises in Birdingbury.<sup>10</sup> John leased the manor for life to John Paynel, as half a knight's fee,<sup>11</sup> and he had a grant of free warren in his lands here in 1312.<sup>12</sup> After the death of John de Hastings his widow Julian, who married Thomas le Blount, held the manor in dower, it being valued in 1325 at £17 18s. 13d.<sup>13</sup> The manor then descended with Fillongley (q.v.) to Sir William Beauchamp, who in 1392 granted it for life to John Olney, his receiver, at a rent of 40s.<sup>14</sup> Olney must have acquired the fee simple, as when his granddaughter Margaret married Thomas Throckmorton she brought the manor into that family.<sup>15</sup> Their grandson Sir George Throckmorton sold it in 1541 to John Hylmer, freemason of London, and Emyn Ogle, widow.<sup>16</sup> In 1567 Jasper Lake of Gray's Inn conveyed the manor to Henry Goodere<sup>17</sup> of Baginton, who six months later transferred it to John Shuckburgh of Napton.<sup>18</sup> His great-grandson Thomas Shuckburgh sold it in 1658 to Charles Leigh of Leighton Buzzard,<sup>19</sup> second son of Sir Thomas Leigh of Stoneleigh, who in 1674 sold it to Sir Charles Wheler, bart.<sup>20</sup> His son Sir William in 1687 released his rights to his mother Lady Dorothy and she at once sold the manor to Simon Biddulph, who was still lord when Dr. Thomas wrote in 1730.<sup>21</sup> The family of Biddulph, baronets since 1664, continued to hold the manor<sup>22</sup> until 1914.<sup>23</sup> Lt.-Col. Harry Egerton Norton was lord of the manor in 1924,<sup>24</sup> and in 1936 it was held by Mrs. Alsagar Pollock.<sup>25</sup>

At the time of the Domesday Survey 1 hide  $\frac{1}{2}$  virgate in Birdingbury was held by Goslin under Turchil; among the sub-tenants were 3 franklins who had themselves held this land in the time of Edward the Confessor.<sup>26</sup> With Turchil's other estates this passed to the Earls of Warwick. Thus in 1242 a half-fee was held of the earl by Thomas de Clinton,<sup>27</sup> and in 1316 by John de Somerville;<sup>28</sup> in 1400 it was held by John Olney,<sup>29</sup> who, as already mentioned, also held the other

half-fee, and presumably the two estates were amalgamated.

In 1206 Henry de Armentiers proved his right to the services of half a knight's fee for an estate held of him in Birdingbury by Henry Trevecerf,<sup>30</sup> Treverf,<sup>31</sup> or Tredeuern.<sup>32</sup> To which of the two half-fees this refers is not obvious.

The Abbey of Polesworth had land in this parish given by Edeline sister of Robert Boteler of Engleby for the souls of Roger de Somerville (her husband) and Walter (his father),<sup>33</sup> but there seems to be no later reference to it.

Land in Birdingbury was included among the property of the Hospital of St. John the Baptist of Coventry granted to John Hales in 1545.<sup>34</sup>

The church of *ST. LEONARD* was *CHURCH* built about the end of the 18th century and enlarged and gothicized in 1873. It is rectangular in plan, with an apse forming five sides of an octagon, and stands at the east end of the churchyard. It consists of nave, choir, and apse, with an internal porch and a vestry at the west end of the nave, the apse being a recent addition. The church is built of ashlar and the apse is coursed rubble. The west end of the building is of classic design and the remainder modern gothic. The apse is lighted by five two-light windows with pointed arches, the choir by two pointed lights with pointed arch and hood-moulding on each side, the nave has two similar two-light windows on each side. At the west end on the north side there is a narrow square-headed window to the vestry, and above a lancet window, with hood-moulding, to the gallery, with a similar light on the south side to light the gallery staircase. The west front is of classic design with an entablature and pediment supported on four Doric pilasters, and above is an octagonal belcote built of stone with round-headed lights in each side and a domical lead-covered roof springing from a moulded cornice. The west doorway has moulded architraves and a panelled oak door.

The choir, i.e. the eastern 12 ft. of the rectangle, separated by a wooden screen, which was made from the old oak rafters in 1873, and the small apse have tiled floors, one step to the choir, two to the altar rails, and one to the altar. The apse is vaulted, the ribs springing from three clustered shafts with foliated capitals and moulded bases, the vaulting being decorated in gold, blue, and red. On the south side is a combined piscina and sedilia with moulded trefoil heads supported on coloured marble shafts with foliated capitals, and at the window sill level there is a stone band of foliated carving. There is a pointed arch to the apse, moulded in two orders, the inner supported on short coloured marble shafts with foliated capitals and fluted corbels, the outer on attached shafts with foliated capitals and moulded bases. The walls of the choir are cemented, with stone dressings,



BIDDULPH. *Vert an eagle argent.*

<sup>5</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* i, 304.

<sup>6</sup> *Cal. Papal Letters*, i, 84.

<sup>7</sup> *Bk. of Fees*, 954.

<sup>8</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1247-58, pp. 84, 93.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.* 1258-66, p. 540; *Cal. Close*, 1264-8, p. 130. The two entries seem to be contradictory.

<sup>10</sup> *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 777.

<sup>11</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, 234.

<sup>12</sup> *Cal. Chart.* R. iii, 195.

<sup>13</sup> *Cal. Close*, 1323-7, p. 404.

<sup>14</sup> *Dugd.* 323, citing deeds in private hands.

<sup>15</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 12 Edw. IV, m. 33.

<sup>16</sup> *Dugd.* 323; *Close R.* 33 Hen. VIII,

pt. 3, nos. 10, 11.

<sup>17</sup> *Recov. R. Hil.* 10 Eliz. ro 132.

<sup>18</sup> *Dugd.* 323.

<sup>19</sup> *Feet of F. Warw.* Trin. 1658.

<sup>20</sup> *Dugd.* 323. <sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>22</sup> *Gamekeepers' Deputations* (1746-1865).

<sup>23</sup> *Kelly, Directory of Warw.* (1936).

<sup>24</sup> *P.R.O. Manorial Lists.*

<sup>25</sup> *Kelly*, loc. cit.

<sup>26</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* i, 321.

<sup>27</sup> *Bk. of Fees*, 956.

<sup>28</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, 405.

<sup>29</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 2 Hen. IV, m. 58.

<sup>30</sup> *Cur. Regis R.* iv, 98.

<sup>31</sup> *Rot. de Obl. et Fin.* 355.

<sup>32</sup> *Pipe R. Soc. N.S.* xx, 8. Both Henry

and his father Walter Trevecerf gave land in their demesne here to the Priory of Nuneston and to the church of Marton:

*Add. Charters*, 48023-31.

<sup>33</sup> *Dugd.* 324.

<sup>34</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xx (1), 1335 (39).



BINLEY CHURCH, . . 1852



BIRDINGBURY CHURCH, . . 1820



BOURTON-ON-DUNSMORE CHURCH, c. 1820



BRINKLOW CHURCH, c. 1820



and the underside of the roof has matchboarded panels.

The nave (38 ft. 6 in. by 22 ft. 3 in.) has ashlar walls, tiled floor, and matchboarded ceiling in panels. At the west end are three tall pointed arches; the lower parts of the two side ones are blocked to form the vestry (north) and the gallery staircase (south), the centre one opens into the lobby, and in each of the openings is the panelled gallery front, the centre one with a carved royal arms. In the north-west corner there is a small stone font of classic design. The pulpit, which stands to the north of the choir, is octagonal, panelled with wood inlay.

There are two bells:<sup>35</sup> the larger bears part of an alphabet and the date 1615; the other is by Pack and Chapman, 1774.

The registers begin in 1559, but the first volume is defective.

The advowson followed the descent *ADVOUSON* of the main manor until 1929 when the rectory was united with the vicarage of Marton, the joint patronage being assigned to the Bishop of Coventry.<sup>36</sup>

The rectory was valued at £4 in 1291<sup>37</sup> and at £7 10s. in 1535.<sup>38</sup>

William Smith by a codicil to his will *CHARITIES* dated 23 August 1711 charged property at Kites Hardwick and Thurlaston in the parishes of Leamington Hastings and Dunchurch with the yearly sum of 4s. to the poor of each of ten parishes, including Birdingbury, to be paid on Easter Day to the churchwardens and overseers, to be laid out in bread and distributed among the poorest people of the parishes. The rent-charge was redeemed in 1905 in consideration of the sum of £80 Consols, producing an annual income of £2.

Thomas Bayes, who died on 5 October 1730, by will charged the land called Gilberts Close, Monks Kirby, with the payment of the yearly sum of 20s. to the churchwardens and overseers of Birdingbury to be laid out in forty sixpenny loaves to be distributed among the poor inhabitants at two equal distributions in the year; viz. on 1 May and 1 November. The rent-charge was redeemed in 1915 in consideration of a sum of £40 Consols, producing an annual income of 20s.

## BOURTON-ON-DUNSMORE

Acreage: 2,144.

Population: 1911, 265; 1921, 294; 1931, 256.

The southern boundary of the parish is formed by the River Leam, and part of the western by a small stream which joins another coming south-west from Draycote shortly before meeting the river. The village of Bourton, with the church, rectory and Hall, lies near the western edge of the parish on the roads from Birdingbury and Frankton. A quarter of a mile north of it the road called the Straight Mile crosses Bourton Heath to meet the Coventry-Northampton road where it touches the northern boundary of the parish. Half a mile east, and slightly south, of the church is the hamlet of Draycote, and between the village and the hamlet, each of which contains a few thatched timber-framed cottages, runs the Rugby and Leamington branch of the former L.M.S. Railway. The land to the north and west of the railway is flat, lying almost entirely between elevations of 360 ft. and 370 ft., but it falls to the south-east, most of Draycote being below the 300 ft. contour line. The country is open, with only a few small spinneys. Draycote was inclosed under an Act of 1765, the Award, dated 6 July 1766, affecting some 1,300<sup>1</sup> acres in Bourton parish.

In 1086 the Count of Meulan held 5 *MANORS* hides in *BOURTON* which Ingenulf held of him; before the Conquest this had been held by Lewin.<sup>2</sup> Ingenulf, who also held of the count Ibstock in Leicestershire,<sup>3</sup> was presumably the founder of an eponymous family, as Robert de Borton, who was living in 1123,<sup>4</sup> had a brother Ingenulf who took the name of Ibstock.<sup>5</sup> The overlordship, as was the case

with most of the count's manors, came to the Earls of Warwick, of whom it was held as 1 knight's fee.<sup>6</sup> The mesne lordship of this fee was held by the Verdens of Brandon (q.v.) from early in the 13th century, Roese de Verdon holding it in 1242.<sup>7</sup> After the death of Theobald de Verdon in 1316 the fee was assigned in dower to his widow Elizabeth de Burgh,<sup>8</sup> with reversion at first to his eldest daughter Joan and her husband Thomas Furnival,<sup>9</sup> but subsequently to his second daughter Elizabeth wife of Bartholomew de Burghersh,<sup>10</sup> whose son Bartholomew inherited it in 1360.<sup>11</sup> When he sold the manor of Brandon to Sir John Delves in 1370<sup>12</sup> this mesne lordship passed with it.

Robert de Borton, mentioned above, had a son Richard, who had two sons, William and Sir Henry.<sup>13</sup> The latter left three daughters as coheirs: Ada wife of Robert de Garshale; Joan, whose husband seems to have been a cadet of the Verdons; and Maud, who is said to have had a son Thomas who died without issue.<sup>14</sup> In 1235 the fee was said to be held of the Earl of Warwick by Philip de Esseyby and Robert de Garshale;<sup>15</sup> in 1242 they and Robert de Verdon held it of Roese de Verdon under the earl.<sup>16</sup> Presumably Philip was husband of Maud; he is called son of Robert de Esseyby<sup>17</sup> in 1217, when he and Robert de Garshale and Nicholas de Verdon, the mesne lord, all returned to their fealty and were received into the king's favour.<sup>18</sup> By 1316 the Esseyby interest had disappeared and 1½ fees in Bourton and Draycote were held jointly by Thomas de Garshale and Robert de Verdon,<sup>19</sup> as they still were said to be in 1335.<sup>20</sup> This last return, however, may have been out of date, as in an inquest of further inquiry

<sup>35</sup> Tilley and Walters, *Church Bells of Warwick*, 115.

<sup>36</sup> Dugd. 324-5; Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.); *Clergy Lists*.

<sup>37</sup> *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 244.

<sup>38</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 62.

<sup>1</sup> 5 Geo. III, c. 33; *Birm. Arch. Soc. Trans.* lxx, 80.

<sup>2</sup> *V.C.H. Warwick*, i, 314.

<sup>3</sup> *V.C.H. Leics.*, i, 338.

<sup>4</sup> Dugd. 289.

<sup>5</sup> Nichols, *Leics.*, iv, 749.

<sup>6</sup> *Bk. of Fees*, 507; Chan. Inq. p.m. 2

Hen. IV, no. 58.

<sup>7</sup> *Bk. of Fees*, 955.

<sup>8</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* vi, p. 38; *Cal. Close*,

1313-18, p. 419.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.* 1318-23, p. 33.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.* 1343-6, pp. 275, 342.

<sup>11</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* x, p. 512.

<sup>12</sup> Dugd. 43, 291.

<sup>13</sup> Nichols, *Leics.*, iii, 805, 806; iv, 749.

Robert and Margaret his daughter, with the assent of his mother Agnes and his son Richard, gave land here to the nunnery of Wroxall: Anct. D. (P.R.O.), D. 1620.

<sup>14</sup> Dugd. 289.

<sup>15</sup> *Bk. of Fees*, 507.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.* 955.

<sup>17</sup> Cf. pedigree in Nichols, *Leics.*, iv, 15.

<sup>18</sup> *Rot. Litt. Claus.* (Rec. Com.), i, 311.

<sup>19</sup> *Feud. Aids*, v, 177; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* vi,

p. 38. <sup>20</sup> *Ibid.* vii, pp. 496, 497.



# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

two years later the tenants are given as Henry de Preyers and John de Verdon.<sup>21</sup> Thomas de Garshale seems in fact to have been dead by 1326, when his son Robert settled the manor of Bourton on himself and his wife Amice and their issue.<sup>22</sup> It is probable that by 1337 Robert was dead and that Henry de Preyers was guardian of his daughter and heir Elizabeth, who married Sir Robert Burdet of Huncote, Leics.<sup>23</sup> Their son Robert, who was under age and in ward to Lady Elizabeth de Burgh, widow of Theobald de Verdon, in 1361,<sup>24</sup> died without issue and the manor passed to



GARSHALE. Quarterly argent and sable a bend gules with three fleurs-de-lis argent thereon.

his brother Sir John Burdet, whose daughter and heir Elizabeth married Sir Humphrey Stafford of Grafton.<sup>25</sup> In this family it remained for about 200 years, except that on the attainder of Humphrey Stafford<sup>26</sup> at the accession of Henry VII the manor was forfeited to the king and was granted by him in 1488 to Sir Edward Ponynys in tail male.<sup>27</sup> In 1515, however, Stafford's estates were restored to him.<sup>28</sup> About 1590 the then Sir Humphrey Stafford sold the manor to John Shuckburgh,<sup>29</sup> who died in 1599, having previously settled it on his son Henry.<sup>30</sup> The latter died in 1626 seised of the manor, which is then said to be held of the manor of Kitt Court, parcel of the former preceptory of Balsall.<sup>31</sup> It descended in the Shuckburgh family until c. 1910, when it was acquired by James Frederick Shaw, who was lord of the manor in 1937.<sup>32</sup>

Sir John de Verdon (see above) held the fee jointly with Robert Burdet in 1346<sup>33</sup> and in 1359 when Sir John Delves had acquired the manor of Brandon he attorned to the latter for Bourton and Draycote.<sup>34</sup> His elder son Nicholas was living in 1380,<sup>35</sup> but by 1386 Sir John's estates seem to have passed to his nephew Ralph, son of his brother Robert.<sup>36</sup> It was probably this Robert Verdon who had settled the manor of *DRAYCOTE* on himself and his wife Emma in 1326.<sup>37</sup> From the Verdons the manor was evidently bought by Sir William Bagot of Baginton.<sup>38</sup> His daughter Isabel with her husband Sir Thomas Stafford sold it to John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster,<sup>39</sup> whose son King Henry IV gave it in 1410 to the Dean and Chapter of Newark College, Leicester, for a chantry of two priests for the souls of his parents.<sup>40</sup>

After the suppression of the college the manor of Draycote was granted in April 1549 to Thomas Hawkins, *alias* Fisher,<sup>41</sup> who sold it in July of that year to John Smyth.<sup>42</sup> He died in 1553, leaving a widow Elizabeth, who subsequently married Robert Warner and died in 1554,<sup>43</sup> and three young daughters: Margery married Thomas Worcester; Alice married Thomas Flavell; and Agnes (also called Anne) married Richard Mathew and died in 1563,<sup>44</sup> when her share

of the manor passed to her sisters.<sup>45</sup> Margery's son William Worcester bought Alice's share and her son Thomas held the manor in 1640.<sup>46</sup> His son William married Anne daughter of Nicholas Grimshawe of Knowle and died in 1692. On the death of his son Thomas in 1699 the estate went to the latter's four sisters.<sup>47</sup> Of these Eliza married Col. Thomas Wilson, and in 1729 he and Grace Worcester were holding the manor.<sup>48</sup> Grace and Sir Theophilus Biddulph, bart. were dealing with it in 1748,<sup>49</sup> and by 1790 the whole manor was in the hands of the Biddulphs,<sup>50</sup> with whom it has remained.

The church of *ST. PETER* stands in a *CHURCH* small churchyard. It consists of a chancel, nave, north chapel, north and south aisles, tower, and vestry. It was almost entirely rebuilt in the 14th century and all that remains of the earlier church is a blocked south doorway to the chancel, the font, and probably part of the east bay of the south arcade. The clearstory, north aisle, and porch were added in the 19th century and the tower was rebuilt. It has been drastically refaced and restored. The chancel is built of limestone rubble with sandstone dressings and has a tiled roof of rather low pitch, a splayed plinth with a beaded lower edge, and rebuilt diagonal buttresses at the angles. The east end has a modern window of three pointed lights and above it the wall has been refaced. The south wall has been largely rebuilt but retains the jambs of an early-13th-century doorway with a large roll moulding; it is blocked and the head replaced by a timber lintel at springing level. East of the doorway there is a square-headed window of three trefoil ogee lights, of three hollow splayed orders, with a hood-mould without stops, and to the west a three-light square-headed window of one splay, probably 17th century. On the north side is a small vestry with a tiled roof and to the east a pointed two-light window of two splayed orders.

The south aisle has a slated roof with a moulded eaves-course of red sandstone and is lighted by three square-headed three-light windows of two hollow-splayed orders, one on the east and two on the south, all much restored. The wall has been refaced with a mixture of squared and coursed limestone and sandstone with a plinth of red sandstone ashlar. The modern clearstory is lighted by two square-headed windows of two trefoil lights. The west end of the nave has been rebuilt with a pointed doorway of two splayed orders, a hood-mould with head-stops; above the door is a pointed traceried window of two trefoil lights, and at sill level a string-course, dropped in two stages to the sill of the aisle window. The north aisle has a slated roof, and a diagonal buttress at the angle, and is lighted on the west by a pointed traceried window of two trefoil lights, and on the north by a modern square-headed window of three trefoil ogee lights. The clearstory has two windows, as on the south. The porch and the doorway into the chapel are modern. It has a stone-paved floor,

<sup>21</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* vii, p. 501.

<sup>22</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xv), 1641.

<sup>23</sup> *Dugd.* 289.

<sup>24</sup> *Wm. Salt Soc. N.S.* x (2), 20.

<sup>25</sup> *Dugd.* 289.

<sup>26</sup> *Rot. Parl.* vi, 276.

<sup>27</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1485-94, p. 250.

<sup>28</sup> *Rot. Parl.* vi, 526. Bourton reverted to Humphrey's son on the death of Ponynys in 1521: *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), lxxxi, 197.

<sup>29</sup> *Dugd.* 289.

<sup>30</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cclix, 39.

<sup>31</sup> *Ibid.* cxxiii, 4.

<sup>32</sup> Burke, *Landed Gentry* (1937).

<sup>33</sup> *Dugd.* 291.

<sup>34</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>35</sup> *Cal. Clois.* 1377-81, p. 498. The younger son may have been Thomas de Verdon, chaplain: *ibid.*

<sup>36</sup> *Ibid.* 1385-9, p. 264.

<sup>37</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xv), 1641.

<sup>38</sup> *Cal. Clois.* 1399-1402, pp. 31, 97.

<sup>39</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1408-13, p. 196; *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xviii), 2444.

<sup>40</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1408-13, p. 420; *Cal. Clois.* 1409-13, p. 34.

<sup>41</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1548-9, p. 190.

<sup>42</sup> *Ibid.* 1549-51, p. 58.

<sup>43</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), civ, 111.

<sup>44</sup> *Ibid.* cxxiv, 5.

<sup>45</sup> *Ibid.*; *Fine R.* 6 Eliz. no. 94.

<sup>46</sup> *Dugd.* 291.

<sup>47</sup> *Ibid.* 290.

<sup>48</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations.

<sup>49</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 22 Geo. II.

<sup>50</sup> *Recov. R. Hil.* 30 Geo. III.

stone-vaulted roof, a pointed entrance of two splays with a hood-mould and floriated stops; the mouldings of the pointed doorway arch die out on splayed jambs. The chapel has been refaced or rebuilt and the windows renewed. It has a tiled roof and is lighted by a pointed traceried window of three trefoil ogee lights on the north and by a two-light on the east. The tower is built of squared and coursed masonry and rises in three stages, marked by string-courses; it is crowned with an octagonal spire, bell-cast at the base, resting on a hollow moulding. The angles of the upper stage are splayed off into an octagon to accommodate the spire, which has gabled steeple lights near its base on the cardinal faces. The belfry windows on all four faces are pointed, of two trefoil lights with pierced quatrefoils; to the ringing-chamber there are pointed single trefoil lights on the south and east faces, and on the west a two-light pointed window with a clock-dial above.

The chancel (23 ft. 2 in. by 15 ft.) is paved with stone and has two steps to the altar; the walls are plastered. It has an open king-post roof of the 17th century, with moulded tie-beams and struts shaped to form tracery, and is supported on wall-posts with curved brackets. The altar rails are also of the 17th century, with turned balusters having moulded brackets at the top under the moulded rail on the west side only. In the south wall there is a piscina with a plain pointed arch and a square basin. Below the window to the east is a shallow square recess and over the blocked 13th-century doorway a modern flat head. In the north wall there is a modern pointed doorway to the vestry.

The nave (45 ft. 2 in. by 17 ft. 10 in.) is paved with stone and has a low-pitched lead-covered roof. The south arcade consists of four bays of pointed arches of two splayed orders, the east bay supported on responds and a pier, thickly rendered with cement, with splayed capitals, also of cement. The south side of the pier has been hacked away, probably in removing the west wall of a 13th-century chapel when the church was rebuilt in the 14th century. The wall over the arch is thinner than the rest of the arcade. The other arches are supported on octagonal pillars with moulded capitals and bases, except at the east end, where the arch dies out on the pier. The west bay has been built up between the pillar and the respond to carry the tower, and a pointed doorway arch formed to give access. The north arcade, of two bays, is a copy of the south but supported on a moulded corbel at the west end instead of a respond. The chancel and chapel arches are pointed, of two orders, the inner a splay and the outer a wave moulding, continued to the ground. The west door and window have splayed reveals with segmental pointed rear-arches. The pulpit, dated 1607, is of oak and placed on the south side of the chancel arch. It is octagonal, but rectangular below for a reading-desk, with carved and moulded panels, finished with a moulded capping supported on moulded brackets.

The south aisle (37 ft. 2 in. by 9 ft. 4 in.) is paved with stone and has a low-pitched roof with stop-chamfered beams supported on wall-posts and curved brackets resting on moulded stone corbels. In the south wall at the east end is a piscina with a trefoil ogee head

and the remains of a circular basin; above it there is a wall memorial to Thomas Worcester of Draycote, died 1698. There is a segmental pointed arch to the tower and in front of it is a 13th-century stone font, octagonal with a deep lead-lined basin, each side carved with a trefoil under a gable with a foliated finial.

The north aisle (22 ft. by 8 ft. 10 in.) is paved with stone and the roof is a copy of the roof of the south aisle. The eastern half of the aisle is occupied by the organ.

The north chapel (19 ft. by 16 ft. 1 in.), which has a modern open roof, is occupied by seven large slate memorial slabs raised one foot above the floor, and an eighth has been lowered to floor level for the door to the porch. The west wall has a modern pointed arch opening into the aisle and in the south wall, east of the arch, there is a piscina with a trefoil ogee head, from which the basin is missing. On the east side of the piscina, a 14th-century effigy, on a slightly tapered slab, has been built upright into the wall, with the lower portion concealed by one of the raised memorials. It appears to represent a cleric with his hands conjoined in prayer. On the walls there are 11 wall memorials, and 4 hatchments in addition to the 8 floor slabs, all to members of the Shuckburgh family, dating from 1717 to 1943.

The tower (6 ft. 10 in. square) is paved with stone, the walls are plastered, and the window has splayed reveals with a pointed rear arch.

There are two bells by Thomas Newcombe (c. 1600), the second inscribed with an alphabet, and one of 1827 by R. Taylor & Sons, Oxford.<sup>51</sup>

The registers begin in 1560.

The advowson of the church remained attached to the manor throughout. The rectory was valued at £8 in 1291<sup>52</sup> and at £19 17s. 2d. in 1535.<sup>53</sup> The benefice was united with that of Frankton in 1932.

A free chapel at Draycote was granted to William Grice and Charles Newcomen in 1566,<sup>54</sup> but there seems to be no other trace of its existence.

By the Inclosure Award for the CHARITIES Lordship of Draycote dated 3 February 1767 an allotment containing 5a. 1r. 29p., part of Bourton Heath, was awarded to the churchwardens of Bourton in trust that the rents and profits should be applied as those of the ground for which the same land was awarded had of ancient times been applied. These uses were apparently towards the repairs of the church, and the rent now received is applied for the same purpose.

Poor's Allotment for fuel. By the above-mentioned Award an allotment containing 10 acres, part of Bourton Heath, was awarded to trustees for the use of the poor of the parish. The body of trustees of the charity consists of the rector of Bourton *ex officio*, the present heirs of Sir Theophilus Biddulph and John Shuckburgh, esq., and three persons appointed by the parish council of Bourton-on-Dunsmore.

William Smith. This parish participates in the charity of William Smith and receives 4s. per annum, which in accordance with the terms of the bequest is required to be distributed in bread to the poorest people of the parish. For particulars of the charity see under the parish of Bilton.

<sup>51</sup> Tilley and Walters, *Church Bells of Warwick*, 122-3.

<sup>52</sup> *Tax. Eccl. (Rec. Com.)*, 241.  
<sup>53</sup> *Valor Eccl. (Rec. Com.)*, iii, 62.

<sup>54</sup> *Pat. R.* 8 Eliz. pt. 17.

## BRINKLOW

Acreege: 1,487.

Population: 1911, 667; 1921, 681; 1931, 732.

Brinklow is a parish 7 miles east of Coventry on the Lutterworth road, which here takes a right-angled turn and runs more or less north and south, forming the main street of the large and compact village. Its eastward course is continued by Cathiron Lane, leading to the hamlet of that name in Harborough Magna and eventually to Rugby. The Fosse Way crosses the parish from north to south, but its course near the village is obliterated, the main street running parallel about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile to the west. The land is fairly level, being mostly around the 300-ft. contour. The Smite Brook bounds the parish on the north, and the Oxford Canal has a short branch to a wharf on the main road. Brinklow Station on the former L.M.S. main line to the north is about a mile from the village and locally situated in the parish of Stretton-under-Fosse.

The most prominent topographical feature of Brinklow is the very fine motte-and-bailey castle crowning a slight hill just east of the village. It is a very well preserved example of an early Norman type of stronghold, presumably built of timber, as there is no trace of masonry, but no documentary history seems to have survived.<sup>1</sup>

Brinklow, which in the early 13th century gave its name to the hundred later known as Knightlow,<sup>2</sup> has always been a large village. There were about a hundred houses in 1730,<sup>3</sup> and the density of population, over 300 to the square mile, is high for a rural parish—almost as high as that of the neighbouring parish of Bulkington, formerly an Urban District. A grant of a weekly market was made in 1218;<sup>4</sup> it is mentioned in manorial documents as late as 1832<sup>5</sup> but seems to have died out long before then; it is not mentioned by Dugdale. As with many main road villages where markets were held, Brinklow accumulated a large number of alehouses. In 1646 six of the seven then existing were ordered to be suppressed, as owing to them 'the children and servants of the said [i.e. most substantial] inhabitants are often drawn into many inconveniences and so neglect their callings'.<sup>6</sup>

Among noteworthy men<sup>7</sup> associated with Brinklow are David Stokes (1591?–1669), author and divine, rector 1625–42 and 1660–9; William Basset (1644–95), author and divine, who was rector 1671–83; and John Rouse Bloxam (1807–91), historian, son of a rector.

An Inclosure Act relating to 1,700 acres was passed in 1741.<sup>8</sup>

**BRINKLOW** is not mentioned in *MANORS Domesday Book*; according to Dugdale<sup>9</sup> it was included with Smite, which would account for the high rating of 6 hides, with land for 25 ploughs, and at least 47 families, given for that manor. The overlordship therefore, after a short period in the hands of Earl Aubrey, passed to Robert, Count of Meulan, and so to the earldom of Leicester,

and afterwards that of Lancaster. In 1275 the Earl of Leicester held a court twice a year and had assize of bread and ale,<sup>10</sup> and in 1361 the Earl of Lancaster had twice yearly view of frankpledge.<sup>11</sup>

The principal tenancy, from early in the 12th century, was in the hands of the Mowbrays, Roger de Mowbray holding Brinklow of the Earls of Leicester by the service of 1 knight's fee.<sup>12</sup> In 1201 a lawsuit involving Brinklow was brought by William de Stuteville against William de Mowbray. The matter dated back to 1106, when after the battle of Tinchebrai Robert Grondeboeuf, William de Stuteville's great-grandfather, a partisan of Duke Robert of Normandy, lost his barony to Niel d'Aubigny, great-grandfather of William de Mowbray. Roger de Mowbray had compensated Robert de Stuteville with Kirkby Moorside (Yorks.) for 10 knight's fees, in the reign of Henry II, but William de Stuteville did not recognize this as it had no confirmation in the king's court. As a result of his suit he was granted, in return for relinquishing his claim to his great-grandfather's barony, £12 rent and an additional 9 knight's fees.<sup>13</sup> Brinklow formed part of this extra compensation, being reckoned as worth £12 yearly,<sup>14</sup> and in 1218 Nicholas de Stuteville, William's nephew,<sup>15</sup> was confirmed in possession of the manor<sup>16</sup> and in the right to hold a weekly market on Mondays and an annual fair on St. Margaret's day, as granted to his father Nicholas by King John.<sup>17</sup> In 1240 another grant of a weekly market in Brinklow, on Tuesdays, was made to Stephen de Segrave;<sup>18</sup> this, however, appears to be an error, as no Segrave connexion with Brinklow can be traced; it may have been a blunder for Thurlaston 'in Brinklawe Hundred', which Stephen held in 1227.<sup>19</sup>

By the marriage of Joan de Stuteville with Hugh Wake of Liddell<sup>20</sup> the manor descended to her son Baldwin, who was of full age at his mother's death in 1276.<sup>21</sup> In 1298 John Wake held 1 knight's fee in



WAKE. Or two bars and in chief three roundels gules.



WHITTLEBURY. Barry of four saure and argent on a chief argent three roundels azure.

Brinklow of the Earl of Lancaster by homage and scutage, his tenants coming to view of frankpledge.<sup>22</sup> In the late 13th and early 14th centuries the principal of these tenants was the Whittlebury family. Aubrey de Wylebiri was enfeoffed by Joan de Stuteville in an estate in Brinklow, to hold by yearly render of a sparrowhawk,<sup>23</sup> and Gilbert de Witteleburi in 1282

<sup>1</sup> *V.C.H. Warwick*, i, 360–2.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* iii, 1; *Bk. of Fees*, 375.

<sup>3</sup> *Dugd.* 220.

<sup>4</sup> *Rot. Litt. Claus.* (Rec. Com.), 366.

<sup>5</sup> *Recov. R. Mich.* 3 Wm. IV, ro. 331.

<sup>6</sup> *Warw. Co. Rec.* ii, 136; iii, 99.

<sup>7</sup> *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

<sup>8</sup> Slater, *Engl. Peasantry & Encl.* 302.

<sup>9</sup> *Dugd.* 218. Cf. *Cal. Chart. R.* i, 352.

<sup>10</sup> *Rot. Hund.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 228.

<sup>11</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* xi, 118 (p. 94).

<sup>12</sup> *Dugd.* 218; Cott. MS. Vitell. A. 1, fol. 38.

<sup>13</sup> *Chron. R. de Hooeden* (Rolls Ser.), iv, 117–18.

<sup>14</sup> *Curia Regis R.* i, 440.

<sup>15</sup> *Dugd.* 218.

<sup>16</sup> *Rot. Litt. Claus.* (Rec. Com.), i, 357.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.* 366.

<sup>18</sup> *Cal. Chart. R.* i, 250.

<sup>19</sup> *Bk. of Fees*, 376. <sup>20</sup> *Dugd.* 219.

<sup>21</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ii, 195 (p. 120).

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid.* iii, 423 (pp. 310, 321).

<sup>23</sup> *Rot. Hund.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 228.

was holding the manor at a rent of a sore sparrowhawk or 2s. yearly, as a knight's fee pertaining to the manor of Kirby Moorside.<sup>24</sup> In 1316 John de Whittlebury was in possession;<sup>25</sup> he gave it to (? his son) Aubrey and his first wife Alice in tail; later John made a fresh grant of it to Aubrey and his second wife Joan,<sup>26</sup> and in 1341 Aubrey de Whittlebury held the manor.<sup>27</sup> Three years later William, son of Sir Robert de Thorp, probably a kinsman,<sup>28</sup> received licence to alienate the manor of Brinklow in mortmain to the Abbot and convent of Combe, the yearly value being stated as 66s. 8d.,<sup>29</sup> less a water-mill and pond in the tenancy of Sir John Ryvel, Elizabeth his wife, and John his son, of which the remainder was to the abbey on Sir John's death.<sup>30</sup> At the inquisition preceding this grant William de Thorp was stated to hold the manor of Thomas Wake of Liddell, who held of John de Mowbray, who held of the Earl of Lancaster.<sup>31</sup> Further alienations of land in this parish to Combe Abbey were made in 1347<sup>32</sup> and 1350,<sup>33</sup> and in the latter year the abbot's holding, of Thomas Wake of Liddell, was reckoned as 1 knight's fee.<sup>34</sup> As late as 1495 Robert Wittelbery, a descendant of Aubrey,<sup>35</sup> made a quitclaim of the manor to the abbey.<sup>36</sup>

The intermediate overlordships of the Combe holding were changed by marriages during the 14th century. By the marriage, about 1325,<sup>37</sup> of Margaret, daughter and heiress of Thomas Wake to Edmund, Earl of Kent, the immediate lordship came to this earldom. Brinklow was one of the manors assigned in dower to Elizabeth, widow of John, 3rd Earl, in 1353;<sup>38</sup> it was still in her possession when she died in 1411, when it was stated to have been granted by Edward III to Edmund, Earl of Kent, her father-in-law.<sup>39</sup> The marriage, about 1349, of John, 5th Lord Mowbray, with Elizabeth Segrave, daughter and heiress of the Duchess of Norfolk,<sup>40</sup> brought a similar change in the next higher tenancy. In 1399-1400 Thomas, 1st Duke of Norfolk, held 2½ knight's fees in Warwickshire,<sup>41</sup> and in 1461-2 John, 3rd Duke, held one and one-tenth and one-quarter fees in Brinklow.<sup>42</sup>

In 1539 the 'manor' of Brinklow, namely the under-tenancy granted by William de Thorp in 1344 to the Abbot of Combe, was granted for life to Mary, Duchess of Richmond and Somerset.<sup>43</sup> She died in 1557, and the following year the manor was granted to Robert Lane of Horton (Northants.) and Anthony Throckmorton of Chastleton (Oxon.). It was then valued at £11 8s. 10½d. and held with Great Addington in Northants., of which the value was £15 10s., as one-tenth of a knight's fee.<sup>44</sup> In the same year Lane and Throckmorton obtained licence to grant the manor to William Dawes, his heirs and assigns, to be held in

chief.<sup>45</sup> In 1628 William Dawes, probably his grandson, died in possession of the manor, William his son and heir being 30 at the time of the inquisition.<sup>46</sup>

Part of the parish, including the site of the castle, was in 1626 in the hands of Arthur Gregory of Stivichall.<sup>47</sup> His son John appears subsequently to have obtained possession of the whole of what was called 'the manor', with which he was dealing in 1654.<sup>48</sup>

It was perhaps through Sir Simon Clarke, who in 1636 with John Clarke granted view of frankpledge in Brinklow to John Williams the younger, Simon Edolphe, and John Vaughan,<sup>49</sup> that another manor of Brinklow came, before 1728,<sup>50</sup> to the Skipwith family, Sir Fulwar Skipwith, 1st baronet, who died in 1678, marrying Dorothy Parker the niece of Dorothy Hobson (daughter of Thomas Hobson of Cambridge), Sir Simon Clarke's second wife.<sup>51</sup> The court leet and view of frankpledge was leased to Sir Fulwar Skipwith, 2nd baronet, in 1685, and confirmed in 1707 and 1731.<sup>52</sup> The Skipwith baronetcy became extinct in 1790,<sup>53</sup> but Thomas George Skipwith, a distant cousin,<sup>54</sup> was vouchee in a recovery of the manor in 1822,<sup>55</sup> and in 1850 the joint lords were Sir Grey Skipworth and A. F. Gregory,<sup>56</sup> the latter being directly descended from the John Gregory who was lord of the manor in 1654.<sup>57</sup> The lordship remains with the Gregory (now Gregory-Hood) family.<sup>58</sup>

In 1201 when William de Mowbray conveyed Brinklow to William de Stuteville he reserved the services of Samson de Cornubia, who held by knight service.<sup>59</sup> This may represent the knight's fee held in Brinklow of John Mowbray the elder of Axholme by the Prior of Monk's Kirby in 1361.<sup>60</sup> This alien priory was absorbed in 1415 by the Carthusian priory of Axholme (Lincs.),<sup>61</sup> and in 1539 its lands in Brinklow were assigned for life to Thomas Mannyng, formerly Prior of Butley (Suffolk) and then Bishop of Ipswich, with remainder to Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk.<sup>62</sup>

One-tenth of a knight's fee was held in Brinklow in 1298 by Thomas de Bray, of the lands of John son of Benedict.<sup>63</sup> In 1361 a similar fraction was held by Thomas de Grey;<sup>64</sup> in both cases the Mowbrays were the immediate overlords, and this is no doubt identical with the tenth of a fee in the hands of John, 3rd Duke of Norfolk, in 1461-2.<sup>65</sup>

A message in Brinklow, with lands in other parishes, was devised by will about 19 April 1625 by Thomas



GREGORY. *Argent two bars and in chief a lion passant azure.*

<sup>24</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ii, 439 (p. 259).

<sup>25</sup> *Feudal Aids*, v, 176.

<sup>26</sup> *Cott. MS. Vitell. A. i*, fol. 170v.

<sup>27</sup> *Cal. Close*, 1341-3, p. 10. Aubrey

lived till 1349. *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ix, 411.

<sup>28</sup> See *F.C.H. Northants*, ii, 500; *F.C.H. Rutland*, ii, 246.

<sup>29</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1343-5, p. 320.

<sup>30</sup> *Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xviii)*, 2003.

<sup>31</sup> *Inq. a.q.d.* cclxx, 17.

<sup>32</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1345-8, p. 421.

<sup>33</sup> *Ibid.* 1348-50, p. 469.

<sup>34</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ix, 219 (p. 208).

<sup>35</sup> *F.C.H. Northants*, ii, 476.

<sup>36</sup> Deed at Shakespeare's Birthplace: *ex inf.* Mr. Levi Fox, F.S.A.

<sup>37</sup> *G.E.C. Compl. Peerage* (2nd ed.), vii, 146.

<sup>38</sup> *Cal. Close*, 1349-54, p. 553.

<sup>39</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 12 Hen. IV, no. 35.

<sup>40</sup> *G.E.C. Compl. Peerage* (2nd ed.), ix, 384, 601.

<sup>41</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 1 Hen. IV, pt. 1, no. 71 b.

<sup>42</sup> *Ibid.* 1 Edw. IV, no. 46.

<sup>43</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xiv (1), p. 595.

<sup>44</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1557-8, p. 258.

<sup>45</sup> *Ibid.* p. 237.

<sup>46</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.*, ser. 2, ccclvi. 64.

<sup>47</sup> *Ibid.* cclxxiv. 60.

<sup>48</sup> *Feet of F. Warw. Trin.* 1654.

<sup>49</sup> *Ibid.* Trin. 11 Chas. I.

<sup>50</sup> *Dugd.* 219.

<sup>51</sup> *Dugd.* 83; *Vivir. Warw.* 1619

(Harleian Soc. xii), 200.

<sup>52</sup> *D. of L. Misc. Bks.* xxvi, 321; xxxii, 13.

<sup>53</sup> *Compl. Baronetage*, iv, 491.

<sup>54</sup> *Ibid.* i, 215.

<sup>55</sup> *Recov. R. Warw. Mich.* 3 Wm. IV, 10, 331.

<sup>56</sup> *White, Directory Warw.* 574.

<sup>57</sup> *Butke, Landed Gentry* (5th ed.), i, 546.

<sup>58</sup> *Kelly, Directory Warw.* 1900 and 1936.

The Gregory-Hood muniments deposited at Shakespeare's Birthplace, Stratford-on-Avon, include a long series of Court Rolls and associated documents from 1441 to 1832: *ex inf.* Mr. Levi Fox, F.S.A.

<sup>59</sup> *Curia Regi R.* i, 440.

<sup>60</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* xi, 144 (p. 142).

<sup>61</sup> *F.C.H. Warw.* ii, 131.

<sup>62</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xiv (1), 651 (57).

<sup>63</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* iii, 472 (p. 359).

<sup>64</sup> *Ibid.* xi, 144 (p. 142).

<sup>65</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 1 Edw. IV, no. 46.

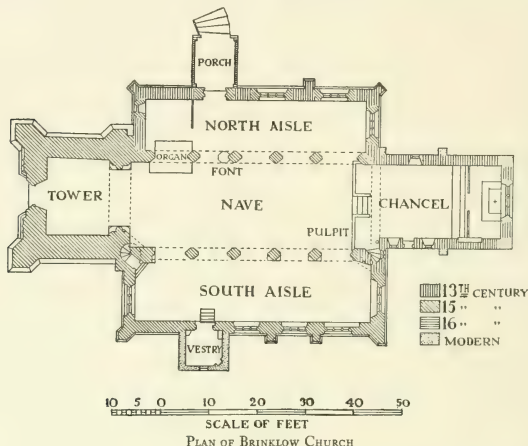


# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

Wale, citizen and mercer of London, to provide a schoolmaster and usher in the school at Monk's Kirby, this school to be free to the children of Monk's Kirby, Stretton, and Brinklow.<sup>66</sup>

The parish church of *ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST*, on the west side of the main street, stands in a small churchyard on the slope of a hill, the ground falling from east to west, its eastern boundary being the outer ditch of the castle. It consists of a chancel, nave, north and south aisles, west tower, and north and south porches; the south porch has been converted into a vestry. It was rebuilt about the end of the 15th century and all that remains of the earlier church is the chancel, parts of the

has buttresses at the angles, two intermediately, and a porch towards the western end. It is lighted between the buttresses by three windows similar to the one in the east wall. The porch has been rebuilt in brick and stone with a tiled roof and the entrance blocked to form a vestry. The south door, which has a four-centred arch under a square head, has been mutilated. The west end is similar to the east, but the coping is carried up as a lean-to instead of a gable. The buttress at the angle is diagonal, splayed to a point. The north aisle is built of rubble similar to the chancel and has a lean-to roof covered with lead, a battlemented parapet with trefoil panelled pinnacles at each end and crocketed finials. Originally there were two intermediate pin-



north aisle walls and possibly the staircase to the rood-loft.

The chancel is built of a mixture of limestone and sandstone rubble patched with bricks and tiles and has a modern steep-pitched tiled roof, modern coping and cross finial, and rebuilt buttresses. It is lighted on the east by a modern window of three pointed lights with a hood-mould and head-stops. The south side has a central buttress, and west of it are two restored lancet windows with a narrow doorway between them. The lancet to the west is divided by a transom to form a low side window. The doorway has a restored pointed arch, the splay carried down the jambs. The north side has a central buttress and another butting against the aisle wall, with a restored lancet window between them. The south aisle is built of red sandstone ashlar with a plinth of one splay, stepped down to conform with the slope of the ground. The wall is diminished in thickness by a weathered offset at sill level. It has a low-pitched lead-covered roof with a plain low parapet, with a moulded coping projected on a moulded string-course. The east gable is lighted by a partly restored traceried window of three cinquefoil lights under a hollow-moulded four-centred head. The south wall

nacles, of which only the bases remain. The north side has diagonal buttresses at the angles, one intermediate and, towards the west, a porch. It is lighted by two three-light traceried windows with splayed four-centred heads, the centre light trefoiled, the two outer cinquefoil; by a similar window on the east; and on the west by a trefoiled single light with a square head. The porch is timber-framed with a tiled roof, and the entrance has been fitted with a pair of modern doors. On both sides the timbering has been concealed, externally with roughcast and internally with plaster. The front retains its timbering, the entrance having a heavy moulded frame and four-centred head, carved spandrels and lintel, and a timber-framed gable plastered between the timbers. The door has a moulded four-centred head, square hood-mould, carved spandrels, and trefoil-panelled soffit and reveals which have been badly mutilated. In the centre of the hood-mould there is a shield with three swords (for Clarke).

The tower is built of light-coloured sandstone ashlar with a moulded plinth and battlemented parapet on a coved string-course; at each angle there are bases for pinnacles. It rises in four stages, diminished at each stage by weathered offsets on the north and south, and

<sup>66</sup> Dugd. 77.



on the east and west at the first and half-way up the third only. At the angles there are diagonal buttresses rising in five stages and splayed off to a sharp edge, except at the third stages on the west side which have gabled trefoiled niches. The west doorway, in a deep wave-moulded splay, is constructed of red sandstone and has a moulded four-centred arch under a square head, with carved spandrels. It is flanked by wall arcading in two tiers of trefoil-headed roll-moulded panels. Above the doorway is a tall pointed traceried window of three cinquefoil lights with a hood-mould, the tracery and mullions being modern, and in the second stage a clock dial. The tower staircase is in the south-west angle, with a loop-light to each stage and a square-headed doorway opening on to the aisle roof. The belfry is lighted on each face by pointed traceried windows of two trefoil lights, and the ringing chamber by similar windows on the north and south.

Internally the floor of modern tiles has been laid to a continuous fall from east to west, probably taking the place of a series of steps, as the bases of the arcade pillars and windows are stepped down following the slope. The walls, except the arcades and tower, are plastered, the plaster being finished round all the aisle windows with scalloped edges.

The chancel (28 ft. 4 in. by 15 ft. 6 in.) has four steps from the nave and three to the altar in addition to the slope of the floor. The east wall has a dado of modern coloured embossed tiles, and the window a segmental pointed rear-arch. At the east end of the south wall there is a shallow recess with a segmental pointed stop-chamfered head, probably a blocked piscina. The lancet windows have splayed recesses with square heads, and the doorway a segmental pointed rear-arch. The roof is a modern hammer-beam, its trusses supported on carved stone corbels. It is continued under the chancel arch with twin trusses, panelled between with pierced panels and supported on slender stone shafts with carved capitals and moulded bases resting on moulded corbels.

The nave (48 ft. 3 in. by 17 ft. 7 in.) has a modern open roof with curved trusses resting on moulded timber corbels. Both arcades consist of five bays of pointed arches, of two splayed orders, supported on lozenge-shaped roll-moulded pillars, the arch splay dying out on the mouldings, which terminate in splayed stops on plain lozenge-shaped pedestals. At the junction of the south arcade with the chancel there is a circular stair up to a square-headed doorway which gave access to a rood, and half-way up there is a pointed opening to the aisle. It is lighted from the east by a small square-headed two-light window. The chancel arch is a modern pointed one, of two splayed orders, dying out on the north wall and on the south resting on a floriated corbel. The tower has a pointed arch of two splay to the tower and three to the nave, the inner order supported on three-quarter-round responds with moulded capitals and bases. The arch is of red sandstone with capitals of a light-coloured stone, and on the tower side in the apex there is a carving of an angel. The south-west angle is corbelled out in three steps for the tower staircase, the upper step being trefoiled, and below it there is a square-headed doorway. The pulpit and reading desk, of stone, are modern.

The south aisle (49 ft. by 12 ft. 9 in.) has a low-pitched open roof of five bays with moulded members

and carved bosses in the centres of the tie-beams. It probably dates from the early 16th century; the boarding and some rafters are modern. The trusses rest on stone corbels on the south wall, and on the north the outer roll mouldings of the arcade pillars are carried up with capitals in place of corbels. At the east end, the north-east angle is splayed to accommodate the staircase to the rood. The windows have hollow-moulded reveals with four-centred rear-arches, the window to the east having its arch extended eastwards and carried down to form a recess. The east wall has an offset at sill level with a chamfered stone capping, and the window reveals are carried down as a recess. In the east window there are some fragments of early coloured glass consisting of two chalices and parts of a canopy.

The north aisle (45 ft. 7 in. by 9 ft. 11 in.) has a lean-to roof of five bays, of which two retain some of their original moulded members, probably early-16th-century. The trusses are supported on stone corbels on the north wall and on square blocks of stone as capitals to the outer roll moulding of the arcade pillars. Over the door there is a painted coat of arms of George IV. The font, with a lead-lined basin, is built into the west side of the north arcade pillar opposite the door. It is of stone, with an octagonal moulded basin with paterae, and octagonal stem and base which has been rendered in cement. It has been re-dressed but is probably contemporary with the arcade. Near the door there is a small 17th-century oak chest with three hasps and fitted with lifting rings at each end. In the centre and east windows there are a few fragments of early glass, including a peacock and portions of a castle.

The tower (15 ft. 10 in. by 13 ft.) has a window with widely splayed reveals, and a rear-arch of two splayed orders; the recess is carried down to include the doorway.

In the chancel and aisles there are a number of 18th- and 19th-century wall memorials.

There are five bells, all of 1705, by Joseph Smith of Edgbaston.<sup>67</sup>

The registers begin in 1558.

Brinklow was originally a chapelry *ADFOVSON* of Smithe, and was granted with the parent church, in the reign of Henry I, by Samson de Albenei with the consent of Roger de Mowbray to the priory of Kenilworth.<sup>68</sup> The patronage continued with that house till just before the Dissolution, when it was granted by the convent to Richard Haw, who presented in 1541.<sup>69</sup> After the Dissolution the Crown retained the advowson in its own hands; the Lord Chancellor is the present patron.<sup>70</sup>

The value of the rectory was £4 in 1291,<sup>71</sup> and £17 10s. in 1535.<sup>72</sup>

William Edwards by will dated 9 *CHARITIES* June 1789 gave to the minister, churchwardens, and overseers of Brinklow £300, the yearly interest to be distributed in bread to the amount of 5s. 6d. every Sunday at church to the most deserving and necessitous poor of the parish. Any sum remaining to be given in bread on Christmas Day.

Mary Barker by will dated 9 December 1721 gave £20 to the minister and churchwardens of Brinklow, to be laid out in bread especially on the Sunday after Christmas Day and on Whitsunday and given to poor persons regularly attending the church service: £10 of

<sup>67</sup> Tilley and Walters, *Church Bells of Warwick*. 125.

<sup>68</sup> Dugd. 218; Harl. MS. 3650, fol. 28, 31.

<sup>69</sup> Dugd. 220.

<sup>70</sup> Crockford.

<sup>71</sup> *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 244.

<sup>72</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.) iii, 56.

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

this sum was lost by the insolvency of the person in whose hands it had been placed. The annual income of this charity and that of William Edwards amounts to £7 11s. 4d.

Ann Brierly, by will dated 16 July 1863 gave £25 to the rector and churchwardens of Brinklow, the income to purchase coal to be distributed on 21 December to necessitous widows residing in the parish. The annual income of the charity amounts to 12s. 4d.

Mary Ferguson, who died in 1862, bequeathed to the rector and churchwardens of Brinklow £100, the interest, amounting to £2 12s., to be given at Christmas among deserving widows of the parish.

Elizabeth Frances Lyne Hill by will dated 29 July 1925 gave to the rector and churchwardens of St. John's, Brinklow, £500, the income to be distributed to deserving poor residents in the parish. The annual income of the charity amounts to £14 6s. 4d.

The Rev. Thomas Muston by will dated 30 September 1729 charged certain property in Foleshill with the annual payment of 20s. to the minister of Brinklow for the use of the poor of the parish, special regard being had to those who frequent the service and sacraments of

the church. The rent-charge was redeemed in 1926 in consideration of the sum of £40 2s. per cent. Consols, producing an annual income of 20s.

James Hancox by will dated 30 September 1752 devised land called Potters Close in Brinklow to trustees to dispose of the rents and profits among poor persons of the parish. The land was sold in 1947 and the proceeds of sale invested. Trustees of the charity are appointed by Order of the Charity Commissioners and by the parish council. The annual income amounts to £12 16s. 8d.

Allice Ansley by indenture dated 11 January 1635 charged certain property at Brinklow with the payment of the yearly sum of 10s. to the rector of Brinklow on Good Friday towards the repair of the parish church.

Thomas Wale by a codicil to his will dated 19 April 1625 ordained that the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Coventry should yearly bestow out of the rents and profits of certain property devised to them the sum of 40s. to the churchwardens and overseers of the poor of Brinklow to be distributed for the relief of the poor of the parish.

## BUBBENHALL

Acreeage: 1,265.

Population: 1911, 225; 1921, 241; 1931, 291.

This small parish lies to the south and east of the River Avon, close to which on a slight rise stands the church, to the east of which lies the village, round a congeries of small roads. The houses are almost all timber-framed buildings of the 17th and 18th centuries, with tiled roofs, and have been much altered and restored. The parish, which lies for the most part at an elevation of between 250 ft. and 300 ft., is surrounded by large blocks of woodland, but the only block within its boundaries is Bubbenthal Wood, in the south. About a thousand acres of open fields were inclosed in 1726.<sup>1</sup>

In 1086 the 5-hide vill of *BUBBEN-MANOR HALL* was among the estates of Robert de Stafford and was held of him by Alviric, who had himself held it under Edward the Confessor.<sup>2</sup> The overlordship remained with the Staffords, one-third of a fee being returned among the knights' fees of Hervey de Stafford in 1212.<sup>3</sup> Later it figures as a whole fee of the Earls of Stafford<sup>4</sup> and, in 1460, of the Duke of Buckingham.<sup>5</sup>

In 1243 two-thirds of a fee were held of Robert de Stafford by the Earl of Warwick;<sup>6</sup> this was presumably John du Plessis, second husband of Margaret, Countess of Warwick,<sup>7</sup> for in 1279 a mesne lordship of one-third of a fee here was held by Hugh du Plessis,<sup>8</sup> son of John by his first wife (who was daughter and heir of John de Staundon of Hook Norton, Oxon.).<sup>9</sup> The only later reference to this mesne lordship seems to be in 1420, when Sir John Beauchamp was said to have held the manor of Bubbenthal of Thomas Chaucer as of the manor of Hook Norton.<sup>10</sup>

The tenant in fee under Hugh du Plessis in 1279

was John son of Wido (son of Robert),<sup>11</sup> or FitzWyth as the name became. John's son Robert was succeeded by his son Guy, who held the manor in 1316.<sup>12</sup> The last of the male line of this family was Robert FitzWyth, who in 1361 assigned a rent of 40s. from the manor to John son of William Catesby for life.<sup>13</sup> His daughter and heir Joan was born at Bubbenthal on 25 March 1352<sup>14</sup> and married John Beauchamp of Holt. Her mother was Agnes Catesby, the first wife of Robert FitzWyth, whose second wife, Joan, survived him and married William de Tyrrington of Apsley Guise.<sup>15</sup> When William and Joan sued John Beauchamp and Joan for one-third of the manor as dower, they replied that no dower was due, because Joan, on the Tuesday after Michaelmas 1362, abandoned her husband and went to live in adultery with Roger de Careswelle in the hospital of St. Thomas at Southwark. To this Joan replied that Roger came to Apsley Guise with armed force, wounded her husband mortally, so that he died three days later, beat her, and carried her off to Southwark, but that she escaped and returned within four days to find her husband dead, and that she had appealed Roger and the others and they had been outlawed; the court accepted her story and awarded her dower.<sup>16</sup> Sir John Beauchamp and Joan made a settlement of the manor on her issue or right heirs in 1375,<sup>17</sup> and in 1383 granted it to John Catesby for life.<sup>18</sup> Sir John Beauchamp was created a baron in October 1387 and attainted of high treason in



FITZWYTH. Gules two bends or.

<sup>1</sup> Slater, *Engl. Peasantry and Enclosures*, 302.

<sup>2</sup> *V.C.H. Warwick*, i, 329.

<sup>3</sup> *Red Bk. of Exch.* 612. Hervey was exacting services from Henry de Oillel for lands in Bubbenthal in 1230: *Cal. Close*, 1227-31, pp. 392, 589.

<sup>4</sup> *Chan. Inq.* p.m. 10 Ric. II, no. 38; 16 Ric. II, no. 27; 22 Ric. II, no. 46.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.* 38-9 Hen. VI, no. 59.

<sup>6</sup> *Bk. of Fees*, 951.

<sup>7</sup> He does not seem to have made use of the title formally before 1246: *G.E.C. Complete Peerage* (1st ed.), viii, 55.

<sup>8</sup> *Dugd.* 47; *Exch. K.R. Misc. Bks.* 15, fol. 23.

<sup>9</sup> *G.E.C.* loc. cit.

<sup>10</sup> *Chan. Inq.* p.m. 8 Hen. V, no. 10.

<sup>11</sup> *Dugd.* 48.

<sup>12</sup> *Feud. Aids*, v, 177.

<sup>13</sup> *Cat. Ant.* D. v, A. 10968.

<sup>14</sup> *Chan. Inq.* p.m. 49 Edw. III, pt. 1, no. 92.

<sup>15</sup> *Dugd.* 48.

<sup>16</sup> *Wm. Salt Soc.* xiii, 76, from De Banco R. Trin. 43 Edw. III, m. 387.

<sup>17</sup> *Feet of F.* (*Dugd. Soc.* xviii), 2228.

<sup>18</sup> *Cat. Ant.* D. v, A. 9488.



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BURRENHALL MILL



December,<sup>19</sup> at which time the manor of Bubbenthal was said to be held of Sir Philip la Vache<sup>20</sup> (probably guardian of 'the heir of Plecy, lord of Hook Norton').<sup>21</sup> On the death of his son, Sir John Beauchamp, in 1420 the manor passed to his daughter Margaret, widow of John Pauncfote,<sup>22</sup> subject to the life interest of his widow Alice. Margaret and her second husband John Wysham in 1422 made a settlement of the reversion of the manor.<sup>23</sup> She left three daughters, of whom Alice married John Guise, Joan married John Croft, and Elizabeth married Thomas Croft.<sup>24</sup> Thomas and Elizabeth in 1472 settled their third of the manor on themselves and her heirs;<sup>25</sup> John Croft and Joan made a similar settlement of their third in 1499,<sup>26</sup> and in 1501, after Elizabeth had died without issue, of a moiety of the manor.<sup>27</sup> After Joan's death John Croft sold his share in 1515 to Sir Edward Grelliv.<sup>28</sup>

The other moiety of the manor seems to have been acquired by Sir Edward Belknap by 1513<sup>29</sup> and to have passed to his heirs, the Danets,<sup>30</sup> Sir Anthony Cooke,<sup>31</sup> and the Wottons. Eventually the Wottons seem to have obtained the whole, as Thomas Wotton died in 1587 seised of the manor of Bubbenthal,<sup>32</sup> and his son Edward, Lord Wotton, settled it in 1608 at the marriage of his son Thomas with Mary Throckmorton.<sup>33</sup> This Thomas, Lord Wotton, died in 1630, having settled the manor on his wife Mary, with remainder to his third daughter Margaret,<sup>34</sup> who with her husband Sir John Tufton was dealing with it in 1652.<sup>35</sup> Margaret's eldest sister Catharine, wife of Henry, Lord Stanhope, evidently established a claim to a share, as in 1655 she and her second husband Sir John vanden Kerckhoven, or Polander, were dealing with a quarter of the manor,<sup>36</sup> and in 1717 her son Philip Stanhope, Earl of Chesterfield, with Thomas Wrenn and Elizabeth, Martha Smyth, widow, Thomas Hall, and Robert Mease conveyed the manor of Bubbenthal to William Bromley,<sup>37</sup> in whose family it has descended with Baginton (q.v.).

At the time of the Domesday Survey there was a mill here worth 4s.<sup>38</sup> This seems to have been given to Kenilworth Priory, as after the dissolution of that house there is mention in 1547 of 46s. 8d. rent of a messuage in Bubbenthal with a water-mill called Milnehouse, with the 'fludyats' and dams adjoining, let to William Smythe for 41 years from 9 March 1528, paying yearly to the heirs of Robert Belknap 6s. 8d. from the mill.<sup>39</sup> A water-mill is mentioned in 1698,<sup>40</sup> and the conveyance of the manor to William Bromley in 1717 mentions three mills.<sup>41</sup>

The church of *ST. GILES* is situated *CHURCH* in a cul-de-sac at the western end of the village on the north side of the Leamington-Wolston road. It has a small churchyard. The church consists of chancel, nave, west tower, vestry, and south porch.

The church was built late in the 13th century, when it consisted of chancel and nave. The tower was added early in the 14th century and the top stage late in the

same century. The only evidence of an earlier church is the 12th-century font in the tower. A modern vestry and boiler-house have been built on the north side. The 13th-century church is built with a dark red sandstone in roughly coursed rubble with ashlar dressings; for the later work a lighter coloured stone was used. The roofs are modern, covered with tiles.

The east gable wall of the chancel has been completely rebuilt, with twin buttresses, in a light-coloured sandstone. It has a three-light tracery window with a hood-moulding. The south side has three late-13th-century single-light windows with pointed arches of two splayed orders; a splayed string-course runs at sill level, and below the westernmost window is a blocked low-side chamfered window with a flat head, the sill 1 ft. 9 in. above ground.<sup>42</sup> The north side is similar but with only two windows; a third has probably been built up. It has a tiled roof finishing on a splayed eaves-course, and a plinth of one splay. The south wall of the nave has two single-light windows with pointed arches of two splayed orders, and towards the east another with two orders of wave-mouldings and a hood-mould. The string-course continues from the chancel and is carried round twin buttresses at its west end; the east buttress is modern. The 13th-century south door has a richly moulded pointed arch, the moulding continued down the jambs to a square step of modern cement. It has a label-moulding with both stops broken off. Outside this door is a modern brick porch with a tiled roof; the roof timbers are re-used from elsewhere and have the initials IB: PA: C: W and the date 1616. On the north side the string- and eaves-courses carry on from the chancel, and the string is taken across a large buttress with a gabled head and twin buttresses at the west end. There are two single-light windows corresponding in detail with the western on the south side. The early-14th-century north doorway has a pointed arch with a single wave-moulding continued down the jambs and a hood-moulding with mask stops. Above, there is a modern triangular window enclosing a cusped circle. At the east end, overlapping the chancel, is a modern vestry built of sandstone ashlar. The tower rises in four stages, unmarked by string-courses, but with a splayed offset for the later top stage. There are twin buttresses in three stages at the north-east and south-west angles, which only reach to the top of the first stage. On the west side a battered brick base has been built between the buttresses, and it extends to the height of the second stage of the buttresses. There are single lights with pointed arches of two splayed orders to the second and third stages, except on the north side, which has one to the third stage only. On the south side there is a similar modern window to the lower stage. The wall is built of light-coloured sandstone ashlar, patched with red bricks, and the upper stages of the buttresses at the south-west angle are rebuilt with red brick. The top stage is built of a mixture of red and light-coloured sandstone ashlar, with a plain parapet and crocketed

<sup>19</sup> *V.C.H. Worcs.* iii, 404.

<sup>20</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. 12 Ric. II, no. 91.

<sup>21</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* xi, 324.

<sup>22</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. 8 Hen. V, no. 10.

<sup>23</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xviii), 2530.

<sup>24</sup> *V.C.H. Worcs.* iii, 404.

<sup>25</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xviii), 2699.

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.* 2768.

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid.* 2784.

<sup>28</sup> Dugd. 49.

<sup>29</sup> Leadam, *Domesday of Inclosures*, 438.

<sup>30</sup> Feet of F. Div. Cos. East. 3 Edw. VI.

<sup>31</sup> *Ibid.* East. 6 Eliz.

<sup>32</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), ccxv, 263.

<sup>33</sup> *Ibid.* ccclxi, 99; Feet of F. Div. Cos.

Trin. 6 Jas. I.

<sup>34</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), ccclxi, 92.

<sup>35</sup> Feet of F. Div. Cos. Hil. 1651.

<sup>36</sup> *Ibid.* Mich. 1655.

<sup>37</sup> *Ibid.* Warw. Hil. 3 Geo. I.

<sup>38</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* i, 329.

<sup>39</sup> *Mon. Bailiffs' Actts.* (Dugd. Soc.), 47; cf. *Varior Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 65.

<sup>40</sup> *Recor. R.* East. 10 Wm. III, ro. 62.

<sup>41</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Hil. 3 Geo. III.

<sup>42</sup> A drawing of the church, c. 1820, in the Aylesford Collection shows a fourth window, to the east, similar but shortened, the string-course being lifted as if to form the head of a (blocked) door. The rebuilding of the east wall has removed all trace of this window; the top left-hand corner of the raised string can be traced, but there is no evidence of any former opening.



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pinnacles at the angles. On each face is a tracery window of two trefoil lights, of two played orders, with four-centred arches and hood-mouldings with grotesque head stops. On the east face there is a roof line of steep pitch with a clock-face above.

The chancel (25 ft. 6 in. by 18 ft. 3 in.) has a modern hammer-beam roof resting on stone corbels, and a modern tiled floor. The window recesses have wide-played reveals and pointed arches with stopped hollow spays, and at the sill level there is a large continuous roll-moulding which is carried on round the nave. The played window-recess at the west end of the south wall is carried down to the floor to embrace the blocked low-side window, the sill moulding being stopped against its moulded aris.

The nave (43 ft. by 20 ft.) has a modern roof similar to that over the chancel, and a modern tiled floor. The window recesses are played and have segmental-pointed arches with stop-chamfers; the arches over both the north and south doorways are similar. The large roll-moulding at sill level in the chancel is continued on both sides of the nave. The chancel arch is tall and narrow with a pointed arch of two hollow spays supported on moulded corbels decorated with carved knots, and on either side are similar arches, but lower, which appear to be modern. The centre arch has been rebuilt 2 ft. east of its original position, and the wall now overlaps the splay of the low-side window recess.

The tower (9 ft. 3 in. by 9 ft. 3 in.) has no staircase, and access is now by a ladder from a modern boiler-house to a door broken through the wall on the north side of the tower. The pointed tower arch has

two orders, the inner a wave-moulding, the other a splay on the nave side, and two chamfers towards the tower. It rests on moulded corbels with grotesque masks. The modern window recess has a segmental-pointed arch.

The font dates from the 12th century and has a tapered circular basin, supported by a central shaft and eight detached columns with moulded capitals and bases on a modern step.

The seating is modern varnished pitch-pine. The pulpit is a large modern one of stone and coloured marbles, and is placed on the south side of the chancel arch. Opposite is a reading-desk of similar materials.

There are three bells:<sup>43</sup> one (c. 1600) by Newcombe, the second by Henry Bagley, 1670, and the third by T. Mears, 1803.

The registers begin in 1698, but the first volume is imperfect.

The church was valued in 1291 at *ADPOWSON* £6 13s. 4d.<sup>44</sup> Not long after this date it was appropriated to form a prebend of Lichfield Cathedral. Accordingly the parish church was not valued in 1535, the whole profits going to the prebend, of which the nominal value was 20s.<sup>45</sup> The curacy was in the gift of the prebendary, but under the Act of 1840 was transferred to the Bishop of Worcester, and in 1918 to the Bishop of Coventry, on the formation of that see.

Mary Turner's Charity: 6s. 8d. is received each year for the benefit of the poor of this parish in respect of this charity, for particulars of which see under the parish of Baginton.

## BULKINGTON

Acreeage: 4,892.

Population: 1911, 1,837; 1921, 2,216; 1931, 2,747.

The parish forms a large roughly square block,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles across, to the south of Nuneaton. Its boundaries are for the most part formed by small streams, that on the east being the upper reaches of the River Anker. The village is situated centrally, on a slight rise, most of the houses being built on four roads which form a square inclosure south of the church. A road leads due west to Bedworth, passing Bulkington station on the Trent Valley branch of the L.M.S. Railway, which crosses the parish from south-east to north-west. Just to the east of the village is the road to Nuneaton, on the east side of which is the hamlet of Ryton. Half a mile north-west of the church is Weston-in-Arden, a hamlet which contains Weston Hall, the Roman Catholic church, and a few farms. A mile farther to the north-west is Marston Jabet, through which passes the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Canal, which runs for over a mile along the northern boundary of the parish. In this district are a number of old quarries, and Marston Lane, leading to Bedworth, was described in 1654 as 'the common way to the coalpits and stonepits'.<sup>1</sup> From Ryton a road runs east, and slightly north, to Wolvey, crossing the Anker by the 'stone horse bridge called Goose Bridge' in 1659.<sup>2</sup> North of this road, on the left bank of the Anker, is the hamlet of Bramcote,

including Wolvershill, access to which is now diverted owing to the siting of a naval aerodrome.

Under the provisions of the Public Health Act of 1848 a Local Board was formed in July 1850. This was converted into an Urban District Council in 1894, but Bulkington lost its urban status by the Warwickshire Review Order, 1932.

To the south of Bulkington village lies Barnacle, connected with it by a field path, no doubt the 'ancient paved causey' mentioned in 1659.<sup>3</sup> Just to the west of the hamlet is the moated site of Barnacle Park.<sup>4</sup> This was a freehold of the manor of Barnacle Hall and at the time of the Civil War was in the tenure of William Hickman, who was a captain in the army of King Charles, for which offence the Parliamentary forces plundered and burnt his house.<sup>5</sup> It was still in the hands of the Hickmans about 1725.<sup>6</sup>

The village street is lined by late-18th-century houses and cottages, some of which are constructed with three stories, the uppermost being lofty and lit by broad windows, the result of a small offshoot of the silk-weaving industry from the main centres of Coventry and Bedworth.<sup>7</sup> One or two of the cottages are timber-framed of the 16th century.

Weston-in-Arden is hardly separated from the village, and the nucleus of the hamlet is Weston Hall, an ancient manor-house, close to a sharp bend in the by-road, with the modern Roman Catholic church

<sup>43</sup> Tilley and Walters, *Church Bells of Warwick*, 136.

<sup>44</sup> *Tax. Eccl. (Rec. Com.)*, 241.

<sup>45</sup> *Valor Eccl. (Rec. Com.)*, iii, 693; *ibid.*

131.

<sup>1</sup> *Warw. Co. Recs.* iii, 228.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* iv, 83, 110, 239.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.* vi, 133.

<sup>4</sup> It was held by John Temple of Stowe (Bucks.) at his death in 1603: *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cclxxxi, 93.

<sup>5</sup> *Exch. Dep. by Com. East*, 2 Jas. II,

no. 2.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.* Mich. 12 Geo. I, no. 10;

Dugd. 62.

<sup>7</sup> Lewis, *Topog. Dic. of England* (1835), refers to the manufacture of ribbons being 'recently' introduced.

standing on the opposite side of a lane branching from the angle. The present Hall is of the mid-16th century and was substantially extended about 1892.<sup>8</sup> It is built of grey and cream-coloured ashlar sandstone with roofs of modern tile, and the old main block appears from the road as a symmetrical three-gabled front facing south. The east side has two gables and is less in width. The three southern gables intersect with the long roof whose ridges stop on the east wall. The new wing, which includes the kitchens and the main entrance porch, continues westwards. The original south front projects beyond the porch of the new wing, which is recessed in the re-entrant angle; there are three stories and the two chimneys have been rebuilt.<sup>9</sup> All the windows are mullioned, with a single transom and a square head, head and jambs being of two chamfered orders. In each of the outer gables the windows are four lights wide, except for those on the second floor, whose width is three lights. Above the doorway, which is central, there is a window of three lights at each of the two stories over, and within the centre gable also are two two-light windows at each side, at ground- and first-floor levels only. The two lower windows in the eastern gable and the doorway, with its moulded jambs and square head of two orders together with the two sunk panels above, are of modern stonework. The plinth is moulded and is returned on either side of the doorway. Projecting string-courses, weathered with a hollow under, are continuous across the façade immediately above both ground- and first-floor windows. The second-floor windows carry straight hood-moulds of their own width. The gables are continuous with the short lengths of moulded parapet at their feet.

The two gables of the east façade are similar, except that the second-floor windows (one in each gable) are less in height and without transoms, and the northern window to the ground floor has been replaced by a modern stone bow window of six lights. The whole of the north façade has been rebuilt<sup>10</sup> except for the bay at the east end, which is two stories in height, each lighted by the same type of window of three lights with a transom. The upper one of these is blocked inside the glazing, which is divided into small panes and is either original or of the 17th century: all the other glazing is modern. Neither string-courses nor the plinth return beyond the north-east corner of the building.

The central entrance door of the original block leads into a vestibule, which, together with most of the interior, was modernized during the restoration of 1893. Here, two open arches with modern panelled elliptical heads open onto an oak-panelled lounge hall beyond. Some of the panelling in the vestibule and most of that in the hall is original; the panels are small and surrounded by a small bead within an ovolo and may be ascribed to the late 16th century; they rise to a height of 7 ft., where they are topped by a modern cornice. The hall fireplace, on a play wall opposite the entrance, has a modern oak surround, but the overmantel is inset by an original late-16th-century centre-piece 1 ft. 7 in. high of two panels, each being framed by two crude Ionic pilasters supporting a semicircular head enriched with egg-and-dart and interlaced ribands.

Each frame contains an urn sprouting flowing vine foliage and thistle heads. Dividing the panels and at each end are grotesque figures used as pilasters, each carrying a rosette. There is a band of enrichment spanning the whole length of the original portion (4 ft. 2 in.), and there are vertical lengths of the same moulding as that of the wall panelling.

There is a staircase hall immediately to the east of the vestibule. This rises up through two stories, and the staircase, giving access to the first floor only, winds round in short straight flights of six or seven steps;<sup>11</sup> it appears to be of the late 17th century, although the panelling re-used for lining the soffit is of the early 16th century. The balusters are turned and moulded and the strings are treated in the form of an entablature with a plain puledated frieze.

The panelling which lines many of the internal doorway openings matches that of the lounge hall, but all the doors are modern, except for those to the panelled bedroom described below.

Entered from the staircase hall and situated in the south-east corner is a square library fitted with 18th-century bookcases; 16th-century carved oak panels incorporated in the modern panelling of the window jambs bear decorative motifs such as leaf forms and rosettes. The timber surround to the fireplace is apparently French and of the 18th century; it has a crested overmantel of the same period.

The room in the south-west angle of the front has a modern projecting bay on the west side with a door providing access to the modern wing.

The first-floor bedroom over the library is completely panelled up to the ceiling with early-16th-century panels like those beneath the staircase. The doors are similarly treated and set flush, with H-pattern hinges on the reverse side. The fireplace is modern and the overmantel is probably of early-17th-century work, consisting of four panels with another above. The bedroom to the north communicates both with this one and the staircase landing, and the doorway between them is treated with an oak surround on the north side. This is of the late 16th century and consists of two Ionic pilasters rising from the skirting and fluted above a height of 2 ft. The entablature above has a moulded cornice supported on small brackets; the triglyphs of the Doric order are crudely represented by a series of slightly bevelled panels planted on at intervals. The narrow architrave has a fine upper mould with a row of guttae beneath each triglyph panel. The walls of this room are plastered and there is a late-17th-century stone architrave surrounding the fireplace.

The other first-floor rooms to north and west are completely modernized, the second floor has been similarly treated with recent plasterwork concealing all roof timbers, and it is entered only from the modern wing.

The original entrance now opens onto a square formal garden, which is surrounded on three sides by walls about 8 ft. in height. The latter are of doubtful age.<sup>12</sup> The opposite wall to the doorway is pierced in the centre by a narrow gateway flanked by piers executed in the early-17th-century manner. These are approximately 12 ft. high; they are square with sunk

<sup>8</sup> That date occurs in several places.

<sup>9</sup> W. Niven in his *Old Warwickshire Houses* (1878) mentions the chimneys as being of modern brickwork and seeming rather out of place.

<sup>10</sup> The rain-water heads bear the date 1893.

<sup>11</sup> The second flight passes across the lower window.

<sup>12</sup> They are shown with the opening

in the south wall in Niven (illustration opposite p. 17), though the walls in the illustration appear rather less in height.

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panels, and the moulded cornices carry ball finials; the lower halves of the finials are fluted. On the south and west sides the walling is carried on a chamfered plinth. The wrought-iron gates are modern. The west and east walls are pierced close to the house by openings with similar piers to those on the south side. Beyond the latter there is a short avenue of beech-trees reaching to the road.

Park Farm at Barnacle is a 17th-century farmhouse built of brick and tile. The windows are wood-framed with mullions and transoms; the brick chimney-stacks are treated with sunk panels, and at the base of the walls there is a plain stone plinth which may have been the foundations of an older building. The internal oak staircase is contemporary and is treated with turned and moulded balusters between square newel posts in short flights. The buildings are partly surrounded by a deep ditch and there are other traces which suggest that there was originally a moat. There are ancient yew-trees at back and front. A few cottages form a group close to the track leading to Park Farm and there are 16th-century timber-framed buildings among them.

Marston Hall, at Marston Jabet, is a late-18th-century residence built with buff-coloured bricks; and Bramcote House is an 18th-century farmhouse now (1948) standing derelict and in a ruinous condition, the aerodrome being close at hand.

At the time of the Domesday Survey woodland 4 furlongs in length by 3 furlongs in breadth belonged to Barnacle.<sup>13</sup> Now the parish is almost destitute of woodland, though the grounds of Weston Hall may be the last remnants of the park for the enlargement of which Sir William la Zouche had permission in 1372 to close a path leading westwards from the manor.<sup>14</sup> The open country is, however, well watered, being not only bounded but intersected by small streams, which accounts for the large amount of 100 acres of meadows attributed to Bulkington in 1086.<sup>15</sup>

At Bramcote, where the site of a water-mill can still be traced, a mill was given to the Abbey of Leicester by Geoffrey l'Abbe about 1143.<sup>16</sup> This gift was confirmed in 1240 by Ernald de Bois, including meadow and the pond of Cressewelle;<sup>17</sup> and at the Dissolution the mill of Bramcote was leased for £3 6s. 8d.<sup>18</sup> A windmill appurtenant to the manor of Weston is mentioned in 1277,<sup>19</sup> and in 1710;<sup>20</sup> and another at Marston Jabet in 1590.<sup>21</sup>

Under an Act of 1766<sup>22</sup> some 700 acres of common fields at Ryton were inclosed, and four years later inclosure was applied to the remainder of Bulkington, affecting some 1,600 acres.<sup>23</sup>

It would seem that the parish of Bulkington had originally constituted two 5-hide vill, the **MANORS** southern consisting of Bulkington (4 hides 1 virgate) and Barnacle (3 virgates), and the northern containing Marston (1 hide), Weston (2 hides), and Bramcote (2 hides). At the time of the Domesday Survey the first four of these divisions were among the estates of the Count of Meulan.<sup>24</sup> In

**BULKINGTON** his sub-tenant was Salo, presumably identical with the man of that name who had held in Bramcote in the time of Edward the Confessor,<sup>25</sup> though here the pre-Conquest tenants were Aliet and Alsí. The overlordship of the count's estates here passed to his descendants the earls of Leicester, and after the division of that honour between coheirs in 1204<sup>26</sup> came to Roger de Quincy, Earl of Winchester, and his heirs,<sup>27</sup> being held in 1299 by John Comyn, Earl of Buchan,<sup>28</sup> and in 1352 by (Henry) heir of John de Beaumont, then a minor and ward of the Crown.<sup>29</sup> This Henry's grandson, Sir Henry, Lord Beaumont, still held the overlordship at his death in 1413.<sup>30</sup>

At the time of the foundation of the Abbey of St. Mary of Leicester, in 1143, the manor of Bulkington was evidently held by Roger de Wateville, or Waterville, as he gave the church and its chapels and 2 virgates of land to that abbey,<sup>31</sup> his brother Robert giving other property in the parish. The Wateville estates passed to Ernald de Bois, nephew of Roger, and he, his son, grandson, and great-grandson, each called Ernald, confirmed the gifts made to the abbey.<sup>32</sup> The fourth Ernald de Bois died in 1277, leaving a son John, aged 24.<sup>33</sup> By this time the centre of the manor had shifted to **WESTON-IN-ARDEN**—where in 1086 Fulk had held 2 hides which before the Conquest were held by Sexi<sup>34</sup>—and Bulkington had become a member thereof. John de Bois in 1285 successfully claimed view of frankpledge and other franchises, and free warren in his manor of Weston with its members



DE BOIS. Argent two bars and a canton gules.



ZOUCHE of Harringworth. Gules ten bezants and a canton ermine.

Bulkington, Bramcote, Barnacle, Ryton, Clifton, and Wibtoft,<sup>35</sup> except in the estates of the Abbot of Leicester, who held similar franchises.<sup>36</sup> He died early in 1290, when his brother Master William de Bois had livery of his estates, saving dower to John's widow Joan.<sup>37</sup> In 1296 Master William had licence to enfeof Milicent de Monhaut (wife first of Eudo la Zouche and afterwards of John de Monhaut)<sup>38</sup> in a moiety of the manor of Weston and for her to regrant it to him for life with remainder to William la Zouche (her son) and Maud his wife (daughter of Master William's sister Isabel)<sup>39</sup> and her heirs.<sup>40</sup> Milicent died seised of the manor in 1299<sup>41</sup> and Master William de Bois died early in 1313,<sup>42</sup> in which year William la Zouche and Maud had a grant of free warren for their lands in

<sup>13</sup> *V.C.H. Warwick*, i, 315.

<sup>14</sup> *Inq. ad qd.* ii, 377, no. 7.

<sup>15</sup> *V.C.H. Warwick*, i, 315.

<sup>16</sup> Nichols, *Leics.* i, 284.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.* app. 57.

<sup>18</sup> *Mss. Angl.* vi, 469.

<sup>19</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ii, 222.

<sup>20</sup> Feet of F. Warw. East. 9 Anne.

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.* Mich. 32-3 Eliz.

<sup>22</sup> 6 Geo. III, c. 81.

<sup>23</sup> 10 Geo. III, c. 38.

<sup>24</sup> *V.C.H. Warwick*, i, 315.

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid.* 309.

<sup>26</sup> G.E.C. *Complete Peerage* (1st ed.),

viii, 169.

<sup>27</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ii, 222.

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.* iii, 539.

<sup>29</sup> *Ibid.* x, 20.

<sup>30</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. i Hen. V, no. 45.

<sup>31</sup> Nichols, *Leics.* i, 284, app. 59.

<sup>32</sup> *Ibid.* *Cal. Pat.* 1317-21, p. 226.

<sup>33</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ii, 222.

<sup>34</sup> *V.C.H. Warwick*, i, 315.

<sup>35</sup> *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.)

784.

<sup>36</sup> *Cal. Fine R.* i, 270, 273.

<sup>37</sup> Dugd. 57.

<sup>38</sup> Dugd. 58.

<sup>39</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1292-1301, p. 184.

<sup>40</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* iii, 539.

<sup>41</sup> *Cal. Fine R.* ii, 164.

Weston, Bulkington, Ryton, Bramcote, Wolvershill, and Foleshill.<sup>43</sup> The manor then descended in the family of Zouche of Haringworth<sup>44</sup> until the attainder of John, Lord Zouche, in 1485, when it was forfeited and in 1488 was granted by Henry VII to Sir James Blount in tail male.<sup>45</sup> On the reversal of the attainder in 1495<sup>46</sup> the manor was restored to Lord Zouche and continued in the family until 1580 when Edward, Lord Zouche, sold it to Humphrey Davenport and Richard Bucknam.<sup>47</sup> In 1589 Davenport conveyed the reversion of the manor (or more correctly a moiety thereof) to Sir Christopher Yelverton, retaining an interest in it for the lives of himself and his wife Joan. Humphrey died before Joan, who was still living at Weston when Sir Christopher died in 1612.<sup>48</sup> His son Sir Henry Yelverton died on 24 January 1630 and bequeathed the manor of Weston-in-Arden to his younger son Robert in tail,<sup>49</sup> who died on 10 December 1610, when the manor passed to his elder brother Sir Christopher.<sup>50</sup> In 1655 Sir Henry Yelverton, bart., and others conveyed the manor to Sir Richard Samwell, of Upton (Northants.), and his son Richard,<sup>51</sup> and the latter's grandson Sir Thomas Samwell, bart., apparently sold it to John Hayward about 1710,<sup>52</sup> in whose family it was in 1730.<sup>53</sup> One-half of the joint lordship of the manor was held in 1735 by Mary Hayward and in 1744, 1748, and 1769 by Richard Hayward.<sup>54</sup>

The second moiety of the manor had been sold by Humphrey Davenport to George Purefoy,<sup>55</sup> whose son Gamaliel succeeded to it in 1615.<sup>56</sup> He sold it to Anthony Stoughton, who was dealing with the moiety of the manor in 1652.<sup>57</sup> From 1726 to 1761 George Stoughton occurs as one of the lords of the manor.<sup>58</sup> By 1769 his place is taken by James Money, who had married his daughter and eventual heiress Eugenia, and he was succeeded by William Money in 1785.<sup>59</sup> At the opening of the 19th century the joint lords were the Rev. Peter Debary and Ann his wife<sup>60</sup> and Thomas Woods Weston.<sup>61</sup> The latter and Richard Brome Debary are named as lords in 1850,<sup>62</sup> and Richard Lerins Debary as sole lord in 1874,<sup>63</sup> but the estate and lordship were subsequently bought by F. A. Newdigate, who was lord of the manor in 1900,<sup>64</sup> and were acquired in 1920 by Lt.-Col. F. B. Leyland.<sup>65</sup>

In 1086 an estate of 3 virgates in *BARNACLE* was held of the Count of Meulan by Hereward, who had held it of King Edward the Confessor.<sup>66</sup> Roger de Waterville gave land and tithes here to Leicester Abbey,<sup>67</sup> and he was succeeded by the family de Bois, of whom Ernald IV in 1240 confirmed to the abbey a carucate of land here which Henry (Jabet) of Marston

had held of his grandfather.<sup>68</sup> The family of Dyve<sup>69</sup> held a mesne lordship, in right of which Henry de Dyve of Ducklington (Oxon.) had custody of the manor during a minority in 1316.<sup>70</sup> At some date before 1373 Margaret widow of Richard Hastang and kinswoman and heir of Thomas Dyve conveyed this mesne lordship to William Catesby;<sup>71</sup> but in 1389, when his son John Catesby claimed custody of the manor on the attainder of Sir John Beauchamp, it was alleged that Barnacle was formerly held of John Dyve as of his manor of Deddington (Oxon.) which was forfeited for felony and given by Edward III to the Collegiate Church of Windsor, so that Barnacle was then held in chief of the king.<sup>72</sup> Catesby, however, established his claim<sup>73</sup> and in 1420 the manor was said to be held of 'the heir of Henry de Dyve' as half a fee.<sup>74</sup>

Guy (FitzWyth) was tenant in fee of the manor about the end of the 13th century, when the canons of Leicester Abbey gave him leave to have an oratory in his house at Barnacle, saving the rights of the mother church of Bulkington.<sup>75</sup> Guy was lord of the manor in 1314,<sup>76</sup> but was dead before Christmas 1316, when his widow Joan had dower and his heir Elizabeth was in ward to Henry Dyve.<sup>77</sup> Elizabeth married Thomas de Lucy and in 1351 they granted the manor to (her cousin) Robert FitzWyth,<sup>78</sup> who agreed to pay 12 marks yearly during the life of Elizabeth.<sup>79</sup> Next year he granted it to his nephew Robert and his wife Agnes in tail.<sup>80</sup> The manor then descended with Bubbenthal (q.v.) in the families of Beauchamp of Holt and Croft and was sold by John Croft to Sir Edward Grevill in 1515.<sup>81</sup> His grandson and namesake dissipated his fortune and had to sell his estates.<sup>82</sup>

The Knights Hospitallers<sup>83</sup> held an estate in Barnacle of which the early history has not been ascertained, though a casual reference to lands of the Master of the Hospital in Barnacle occurs in 1262.<sup>84</sup> This was granted, by the name of Ferme Place, to Sir Ralph Sadler in 1550<sup>85</sup> and sold by him to John Wade.<sup>86</sup> He with Richard Perkins and Isabel his wife in 1573 conveyed the 'manor' of Barnacle to Edward Aglionby and Katherine.<sup>87</sup> Aglionby in 1590 granted the reversion of it to Michael Feilding, on whose death it passed to his brother Basil, who settled it on his younger son Sir Roger, on whose death it went to his nephew



DYVE. *Gules a fesse dancetty or between three scallops ermine.*

<sup>43</sup> *Cal. Chart.* R. iii, 225.

<sup>44</sup> Dugd. 58; *Cal. Fine R.* vi, 325; *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 5 Ric. II, no. 62; 19 Ric. II, no. 52; 3 Hen. V, no. 46; 8 Edw. IV, no. 51.

<sup>45</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1485-94, p. 230.

<sup>46</sup> G.E.C., *Complete Peerage* (1st ed.), viii, 224.

<sup>47</sup> Feet of F. Div. Cos. Trin. 22 Eliz.

<sup>48</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccxxvi, 48.

<sup>49</sup> Ibid. cccxli, 28.

<sup>50</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 1655.

<sup>51</sup> Ibid. East. 9 Anne.

<sup>52</sup> Dugd. 58.

<sup>53</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations, Shire Hall, Warwick.

<sup>54</sup> Dugd. 58.

<sup>55</sup> Fine R. 14 Jas. I, pt. 1, no. 42.

<sup>56</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 1652.

<sup>57</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations. There

were two Georges; Eugenia Stoughton, widow, occurs at Whitby in 1747 and with her second husband Watson Powell at Weston in 1748: *ibid.*

<sup>58</sup> *Ibid.*; Burke, *Landed Gentry* (1846).

<sup>59</sup> Money-Kyrle.

<sup>60</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Trin. 41 Geo. III.

<sup>61</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations.

<sup>62</sup> White, *Dictionary of Warw.* (1850).

<sup>63</sup> *Ibid.* (1874).

<sup>64</sup> Kelly, *Directory of Warw.* (1900).

<sup>65</sup> *Ibid.* (1936); Manorial Lists (P.R.O.).

<sup>66</sup> *P.C.H. Warw.* i, 315.

<sup>67</sup> Nichols, *Leics.* i, 284.

<sup>68</sup> *Ibid.* app. 57.

<sup>69</sup> William de Dyve married Maud daughter of Geoffrey de Waterville (Farr, *Fend. Camb.* 160), but the pedigree is obscure.

<sup>70</sup> *Cat. Anct. D.* iii, A. 6040.

<sup>71</sup> *Ibid.* A. 8171.

<sup>72</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. 12 Ric. II, no. 91.

<sup>73</sup> *Cat. Anct. D.* iii, A. 4543.

<sup>74</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. 8 Hen. V, no. 10.

<sup>75</sup> Dugd. 64; Nichols, *Leics.* i, app. 79.

<sup>76</sup> *Cat. Anct. D.* iv, A. 8103.

<sup>77</sup> *Ibid.* iii, A. 6040.

<sup>78</sup> He was apparently a clerk: *ibid.* v, A. 11047.

<sup>79</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xviii), 2033.

<sup>80</sup> *Cat. Anct. D.* iv, A. 6888.

<sup>81</sup> Dugd. 64.

<sup>82</sup> Dugd. 711.

<sup>83</sup> The Prior of St. John of Jerusalem was called 'lord of one half of Barnacle' in 1411, the 'other half' being held by Sir John Beauchamp of Holt as heir of Robert FitzWyth: Exch. K.R. Misc. Bks. 21, fol. 55.

<sup>84</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xi), 791.

<sup>85</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1549-51, p. 270.

<sup>86</sup> Dugd. 64.

<sup>87</sup> Feet of F. Warw. East. 15 Eliz.



# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

William.<sup>88</sup> This estate, part of which lay in Shilton, formed the reputed manor of *BARNACLE HALL*<sup>89</sup> and continued in the family of Feilding until at least 1733.<sup>90</sup> In 1769 it was conveyed by George Byrd and Ann his wife to Samuel Thomas.<sup>91</sup> Holled Smith of Normanton Turville (Leics.) was lord in 1785,<sup>92</sup> and in 1808 his daughters<sup>93</sup> and their husbands, Richard Cox and Susan, Thomas Noel and Catherine, George Smith and Frances, Isaac William Webb Horlock and Ann, Thomas Althorpe and Mary, conveyed it to William Tomlinson,<sup>94</sup> after which date it has not been traced.

As in the case of Barnacle, Hereward the pre-Conquest tenant of *MARSTON* retained his estate of 1 hide in 1086, but as undertenant of the Count of Meulan.<sup>95</sup> The overlordship came to the earls of Warwick, and from early in the 13th century a mesne lordship was held by the family of Estley, or Astley.<sup>96</sup> In 1242 Henry Jabet held of Thomas de Estley, who held of the earl, a half-fee in *MARSTON JABET*.<sup>97</sup> This Henry,<sup>98</sup> who gave his name to the manor, was the son of Fulk de Merston and gave to Leicester Abbey tithes and 4 virgates here which had been settled on his wife Alice in dower; for which gift he and his wife were received into the fraternity of the canons.<sup>99</sup> He and his sons John, William, and Robert gave lands here to Combe Abbey,<sup>1</sup> the grants being confirmed by Thomas son of Walter de Estley in 1241.<sup>2</sup> Land near 'le Churchweie' was given by Henry to the office of the porter of the abbey to provide shoes for the poor.<sup>3</sup> In 1285 this was one of the places in which the abbot successfully claimed view of frankpledge<sup>4</sup> and other franchises.<sup>5</sup> The abbey was deriving a revenue of 106s. from its lands in Marston Jabet in 1535,<sup>6</sup> and these were given with the other Combe Abbey lands to Mary, Duchess of Richmond and Somerset, for life in 1539.<sup>7</sup> In 1544 the manor of Marston Jabet was sold to Thomas Broke, merchant tailor of London,<sup>8</sup> who sold it to Henry Waver, or Over.<sup>9</sup> He conveyed the manor in December 1549 to John Perkins,<sup>10</sup> who died in 1557, bequeathing the manor to his wife Emmote for life with remainder to his son William,<sup>11</sup> with whose descendants it remained until the execution of Sir William Perkins for high treason on 3 April 1606,<sup>12</sup> when it was forfeited but later restored to his widow, whose eldest son Blackwell



PERKINS. *Sable an eagle argent and a canton azure charged with a fesse dancetty sable.*

Perkins sold it to Mr. Robert Surman, Deputy Cashier of the South Sea Company. On the catastrophic collapse of that company it was taken into the hands of the Commissioners of the forfeited estates of the Directors.<sup>13</sup>

At the time of the Domesday Survey *BRAMCOTE* was held in two portions: 1½ hides, held before the Conquest by Salo, had been given to Earl Aubrey (de Couci)<sup>14</sup> but, owing to his having left England, were in 1086 in the King's hands;<sup>15</sup> another ½ hide, formerly held by Sexi, was among the lands of Richard the Forester, or Hunter.<sup>16</sup> The larger part seems to have been attached to Bulkington and it is possible that the Hunter's estate may have been added to Weston-in-Arden, as that manor was held in 1277 by the sporting tenure of the yearly render of a brach hound.<sup>17</sup> Roger de Waterville is said to have given to Geoffrey l'Abbe 3 hides 'in the soke of Weston' as a knight's fee;<sup>18</sup> and these were presumably in, or included, Bramcote, where Geoffrey gave a mill and 6 virgates to the Abbey of Leicester; which gift, with another 2 virgates from one Ranulf, was confirmed by Roger and, in 1240, by Ernald (IV) de Bois.<sup>19</sup> Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, also confirmed these grants in 1318,<sup>20</sup> and in 1346 the Abbot of Leicester held ½ fee of the Earl of Lancaster.<sup>21</sup> When the abbey was dissolved its property in Bramcote and Barnacle, apart from the mill, was producing about £8 10s. yearly,<sup>22</sup> and in July 1546 these lands and rents were granted to Edward Watson and Henry Herdson,<sup>23</sup> who in November sold them to Henry Waver, or Over, of Coventry, grocer.<sup>24</sup> He conveyed them in 1552 to John Masterson,<sup>25</sup> who died in 1565 seised of 'the manor of Bramcote alias Barwangle'.<sup>26</sup> His heirs were his sisters, Alice wife of Thomas Lisle, and Mary wife of Richard Turner. In 1575 Alice, then a widow, and her son John Lisle sold a moiety of the manor to George Purefoy,<sup>27</sup> whose son Gamaliel bought the other moiety from Mary's son William Turner in 1639.<sup>28</sup> The manor was not sold to Anthony Stoughton with the Purefoy moiety of the manor of Weston (see above), but remained with the Purefoys until at least 1730.<sup>29</sup> It was held by Thomas Puffen in 1756 and 1764,<sup>30</sup> and he was succeeded by George and William Russell, who sold it to John Finch in 1784.<sup>31</sup> Jane Simpson, who held the manor in 1792,<sup>32</sup> was sister and heiress of John Finch;<sup>33</sup> it was held by John Finch Simpson of Launde Abbey in 1811,<sup>34</sup> and by his four coheires, Mary, Louisa, Harriet, and Elizabeth Finch Simpson (of whom the two eldest married respectively Edward and Henry Dawson), in 1827 and 1831.<sup>35</sup> Later the estate was probably divided and the manorial rights extinguished.

<sup>88</sup> Dugd. 64.

<sup>89</sup> Exch. Dep. by Com. Mich. 12 Geo. I. no. 10.

<sup>90</sup> Feet of F. Div. Cos. Hil. 7 Geo. II. 10.

<sup>91</sup> Ibid. Warw. Hil. 9 Geo. III.

<sup>92</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations.

<sup>93</sup> Burke, *Landed Gentry* (1846), 593.

<sup>94</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Trin. 48 Geo. III.

<sup>95</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* i, 315.

<sup>96</sup> The half-fee was held of Thomas, Earl of Warwick, by the heirs of Nicholas de Astley in 1400: Chan. Inq. p.m. 2 Hen. IV. no. 58.

<sup>97</sup> *Bk. of Fees*, 960.

<sup>98</sup> A Henry Jabet of Marston was outlawed in 1221 for stealing cattle: *Roll of Justices in Eyre* in . . . *Warw.* (Selden Soc.), 935.

<sup>99</sup> Dugd. 63; Nichols, *Leic.* i, 285.

<sup>1</sup> Cott. MS. Vitel. A.I. fol. 95, 96, 97, 100.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid. 97v.

<sup>3</sup> This franchise had been conceded to the abbot by Sir Andrew de Estley: ibid. 102v.

<sup>4</sup> *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 777.

<sup>5</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 54.

<sup>6</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xiv, p. 595.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid. xix (2), 527 (42).

<sup>8</sup> Dugd. 63.

<sup>9</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1549-51, p. 60.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid. 1557-8, p. 11; Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), xii, 162.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid. cxviii, 87; cccclxxvii, 109; Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 28 Chas. II.

<sup>12</sup> Dugd. 63.

<sup>13</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* i, 276.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid. 309.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid. 341. Cf. Chesterton: *V.C.H. Warw.* v, 42.

<sup>16</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ii, 222.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid. 103.

<sup>18</sup> Nichols, *Leic.* i, app. 79.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid. 284, app. 57.

<sup>20</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1317-21, p. 226.

<sup>21</sup> Dugd. 62, citing a roll in possession of Sir Simon Clarke.

<sup>22</sup> *Mon. Angl.* vi, 469.

<sup>23</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xxi (1), 133 (89).

<sup>24</sup> Ibid. xxi (2), 476 (107).

<sup>25</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1550-51, p. 430.

<sup>26</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cxlii, 124.

<sup>27</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 17-18 Eliz.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid. East. 15 Chas. I.

<sup>29</sup> Dugd. 62.

<sup>30</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations.

<sup>31</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Trin. 24 Geo. III.

<sup>32</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations.

<sup>33</sup> Nichols, *Leic.* iii, 326.

<sup>34</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations.

<sup>35</sup> Ibid.

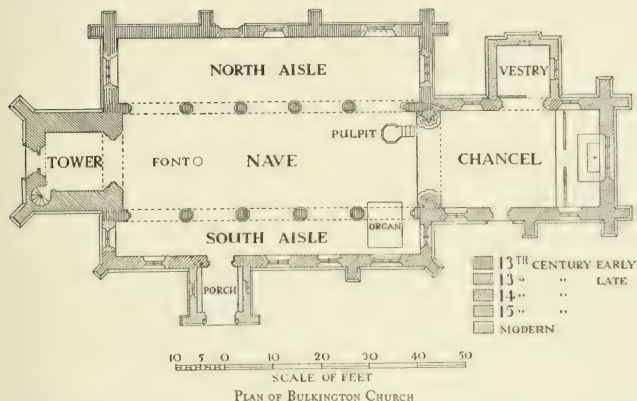


When John de Hastings died in 1312 his knights' fees included  $\frac{1}{4}$  fee in Bramcote held by the heirs of Henry de Hastings.<sup>36</sup> This third descended to John de Hastings, Earl of Pembroke,<sup>37</sup> and so to Joan, widow of William de Beauchamp of Bergavenny,<sup>38</sup> and to Edward Neville, Lord Bergavenny.<sup>39</sup> Its earlier and later history remains obscure.

Ryton was one of the members of Bulkington, with which it is mentioned in many documents, but had no separate manorial existence. Tithes and rents to the value of 46s. 8d. in the vill were given to Leicester Abbey by Roger de Waterville.<sup>40</sup>

west tower was built. The present south clearstory appears to have been either added or rebuilt in the late 15th or early 16th century, when the eastern window of the long wall of the south aisle was rebuilt in conjunction with an arched recess beneath the sill. An extensive restoration took place in the last century when the chancel vestry was added, the chancel arch rebuilt, and all the roofing reconstructed. The existing porch was built in 1907, when the tower was also restored, as was the south wall in 1928.<sup>46</sup>

The east wall of the chancel contains a transomed four-light 14th-century window with a hood-mould



**WOLVERSHILL**, another member of the chief manor, was occasionally called a manor<sup>41</sup> and in 1580 was so described when it was sold by Edward, Lord Zouche, to Humphrey Davenport and Richard Bucknam.<sup>42</sup> They sold it to George Purefoy,<sup>43</sup> whose son Gamaliel inherited it in 1616,<sup>44</sup> after which it descended with the manor of Bramcote *alias* Barewangle (see above), being held early in the 19th century by the Finch Simpson coheirs.

The parish church of **ST. JAMES** is situated on level ground on the north side of the village. It is approached by two side streets which join the main street at different points where it meanders towards the north. To the north of an extensive churchyard are open fields and the Vicarage.

It consists of a chancel with a vestry on the north; a nave, with a clearstory to the south only; north and south aisles; south porch; and a western tower. The chancel is three bays in length<sup>45</sup> and the nave five.

Of the church as it existed early in the 13th century only the nave arcades remain, the north aisle having been rebuilt late in the same century. The south aisle was rebuilt and the present chancel added in the latter half of the 14th century. In the mid 15th century the

and with a two-centred head of two moulded orders, the outer being a casement with an ovolo and the inner being hollow-chamfered, like the mullions, with a rounded fillet. Each light has a four-centred cinque-foiled head, which is repeated below the transom, where the spandrels are hollowed. In the traceried head is a trefoil above the centre mullion, which divides to form two side lancets, each with a similar but smaller trefoil. The gable, with sloping parapets, carries a modern cross finial above an apex stone with a cusped head. The kneelers are moulded and occur 18 in. above the top offsets of the paired buttresses at each angle, which have three weathered offsets. The plinth has two offsets, one moulded with a drip and a plain chamfer below; it returns round the buttresses and stops against the end walls of the aisles.

Like the remainder of the church, including recent additions, but excluding the tower, the chancel has walls of cream-coloured sandstone, the roof is tiled with modern bluish tiles which slope down to a chamfered course of corbels to north and south supporting open eaves. The south buttress is similar to those on the angles; to the east of it there is a single window and to the west a door with a window beyond. That to the east is a two-light window with a hood-mould and

<sup>36</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.*

<sup>37</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 49 Edw. III, no. 70.

<sup>38</sup> *Ibid.* 14 Hen. VI, no. 35.

<sup>39</sup> *Ibid.* 16 Edw. IV, no. 66.

<sup>40</sup> Nichols, *Leic.* i, 285.

<sup>41</sup> e.g. *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xv), 1166, 1600.

<sup>42</sup> *Feet of F.* Div. Cos. Trin. 22 Eliz.

<sup>43</sup> Dugd. 63.

<sup>44</sup> *Fine R.* 14 Jas. I, pt. 1, no. 42.

<sup>45</sup> According to the present arrangement although the original division by one buttress would give two bays.

<sup>46</sup> Kelly, *Direct. of Warw.* (1936).

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with a two-centred head and two small chamfered orders; each light is cinquefoiled and the tracery, which has been renewed, forms three cusped compartments. The window to the west is similar except for the lower portion, which has a sill at a lower level, having a transom at the sill level of the other window, thus providing two additional plain square lights. The priest's door, immediately to the west of the buttress, has a single hollow-chamfered order; the ogee head continues the line of the jambs without impost; the bases to the jambs are much decayed. The door itself is modern.

On the north side the modern vestry has a projecting gable with a chimney<sup>47</sup> rising past the apex. The roof is tiled like the chancel and intersects with the chancel wall a short distance below the eaves.<sup>48</sup> The plinth matches that of the chancel and there is a two-light square-headed window on the east side. There is a window each side in the chancel wall similar to the eastern one opposite, but more of the original tracery remains.

The east gable of the nave has been rebuilt. It is equal in width to the chancel but rises 2 ft. higher, with a roof of modern tile, on the north side of which is a long valley between it and the north aisle roof. On the south side the lower lean-to roof of the south aisle is surmounted by the clearstory of five bays, of which the windows have square heads and are of three lights with four-centred heads over the inner chamfered order, the outer order forming a rectangular splayed frame. The spacing of the mullions is varied in the different windows, being slightly narrower in the centre one and those at either end.

The north aisle is built of a similar stone to that of the chancel, but is not of the same ashlar finish, and would appear to date from the 13th century. It is divided into three wide bays by buttresses which are similar to the pairs set square at the angles. They have two deep weathered offsets, and the plinth with two chamfered offsets returns round their bases. At the level of the window sills there is a string-course, consisting of a roll moulding with a fillet, which returns round the buttresses also. The buttress to the east of the centre bay has been utilized as a flue to the outside heating chamber, being rebuilt for this purpose above the lower offset. The eaves and gables have recently been rebuilt to match those of the chancel,<sup>49</sup> and the gable at the west intersects with the north wall of the tower just to the west of its diagonal buttress. Both gables contain modern three-light windows with reticulated tracery and hood-moulds with head-stops. The east bay is pierced by a modern three-light window with a square head and hood-mould. The centre bay contains a similar modern window on the east side, and on the west there is an ancient doorway, blocked with masonry, having a lancet head of two chamfered orders; the string-course rises at springing height to form a hood-mould; on the east side of the doorway the plinth is cut off.<sup>50</sup> The west bay has no openings.

The south aisle is narrower than that on the north and carries a low-pitched lean-to roof which is surrounded by a continuous moulded parapet. On the south-east angle there is a diagonal buttress, capped by a single deep chamfered offset reaching the level of the

heads of the windows; the base-stone of the offset is gabled and cusped. Midway up its height there is a small chamfered offset returning round the buttress and stopping against the aisle walls; the plinth is similar. Unlike the north aisle the length is divided into five window bays in conformity with the nave divisions, but only one buttress occurs between the angles, on the west side of the eastern bay, and this is similar to the one described except that the top offset is not gabled. The remaining buttress (on the south-west angle) also has no gable, the chamfered plinth is deeper, and there is a short horizontal string-course round the buttress at the base of the top offset. The wall plinth consists of two chamfered offsets.

Only two of the original 14th-century windows remain, that in the second bay from the east and that in the east gable. They are two-light with two-centred equilateral heads of two moulded orders, the outer being practically square with a continuous roll fillet on the outer edge rising from a moulded base. The mullions and inner orders also have a roll fillet with a similar base. Each light has a cinquefoiled head, above which the mullion divides to form a cusped centrepiece. In each case the tracery has been replaced and in the end window the inner order of the jambs and head has been renewed also; they both have a hood-mould, which in the case of the latter dies into the return wall of the chancel. The second bay from the west is occupied by the south doorway, which is lancet-shaped and of two continuous orders, the outer hollow-chamfered. In front of it is a modern projecting porch which has a gable to the south and small windows to west and east; the roof is of red tiles whose ridge runs back at a height a little above that of the aisle parapet, which is gabled up at this point to accommodate it. The windows in the two bays adjacent are two-light, modern, and small in scale, and there is a third window identical with these in the west wall of the aisle. The window occupying the east bay is different from both the original and modern types. It is of three four-centred lights with a square head and reaches to within 2 ft. of the upper edge of the parapet and was perhaps built to fit this layout as a small chantry in the late 15th century. The sill has a single splay, and the jambs are of two orders; the outer consists of a wide casement between two narrow chamfered fillets returning to form the square head. The two chamfered mullions are modern replacements. To the west of the window head a string-course, with underside chamfered, runs westwards, just clearing the buttresses and windows. There is a large yew tree to the south of this aisle.

The 15th-century tower is built of dark grey sandstone. It is divided by a weathered offset into two stages. The buttresses are diagonal and have five main offsets, the third level with the division between the two main stages; each is splayed, except that at the top which terminates each buttress where the string-course occurs below the parapet and supports a stone gargoyle in the form of a winged monster projecting diagonally beyond the buttress. The highest splayed offset marks the point where the buttress changes from being square below to being set diamondwise above, making the outer faces square with the walls of the tower. Half-

<sup>47</sup> Serving a fireplace which is now bricked up.

<sup>48</sup> Here a rough-hewn block of masonry may have been the top offset block of the

original buttress.

<sup>49</sup> Fragments of what may be a 14th-century gable-cross are lying at the foot of the east gable.

<sup>50</sup> On the west side the plinth termination is concealed by a pile of rubbish.

way up the belfry, on each projecting buttress face, occurs the sill of a small sunk panel with a crocketed hood.

The parapet is embattled, with three embrasures on each side, and at each angle carries a square finial with sunk trefoiled panels which supports a small hood with stops and finial; the main finial tapers above with crockets at the angles and a top finial. The low-pitched pyramidal roof of the tower is lead-covered and supports a flagstaff with gilded weathercock. A plinth surrounds the tower and its buttresses, stopping against the west walls of the aisles; it consists of an upper moulded splay, a wave-moulding with drip, and below there is a hollowed splay offset.

The belfry windows are two-light with a four-centred head. They have two chamfered orders and there is a transom half-way up each mullion. Each light is trefoiled, and above is a single quatrefoil. There is a hood-mould, crocketed, with carved monsters as stops, and a short finial almost reaching the parapet string.

The tower vice, which winds within the south-west angle, is lighted by five slit windows evenly spaced in vertical alignment; each has a two-centred trefoiled head and a hood carrying two large crockets, a finial, and stops carved in the form of winged griffins.<sup>51</sup> Also on the south face only, beneath the belfry window-sill, is a semi-octagonal niche. It has finely moulded jambs supporting a projecting ogee arched hood and canopy; the finial to the canopy is missing but must have stood above the sill level. On each side of the hood is small-scale shafting dropping down to half the height of the niche below. Below the niche a modern gilded dial clock covers the upper portion of the small central slit light, now blocked. On the other faces this central slit light is exposed, and is seen to be similar to those lighting the vice.

The only external openings in the lower stage are in the west—a doorway and a three-light mullioned and transomed window over. The window has a four-centred head of two chamfered orders, both hollowed, and a sill with a double splay. The tracery and inner order below transom level have been renewed; these lights have four-centred cinquefoiled heads; the upper heads are ogee-shaped, cinquefoiled also, and carry minor mullions, with the main mullions rising straight to the main arch; each minor mullion terminates in a small diamond quatrefoil. The west doorway is contained within the returned ends of the tower plinth. It carries a single arch-ring with a four-centred head similar to those of the belfry windows, and the moulded single order is divided into three hollows separated by two roll fillets which spring from moulded bases; there is no impost. Both doorway and window carry hood-moulds with short wide finials, large crockets, and winged monsters as stops. The west door may have been reconstructed from the ancient oak of the original, the hinges being of recent date.

The whole of the interior walls have been plastered, except for the reveals of the exterior openings and such features as arcading and stone projections. In the chancel there is a modern stone cornice supporting the modern pointed barrel roof, which is boarded. The furniture of the sanctuary is all modern. On the south side there is an oak coat of arms dated 1629 at its base, and on the top cresting there are the initials P. O. A.

In the north wall, close by the chancel arch, there is the open end of a squint. In the centre is a modern stone arch, opening into the priest's vestry, with a modern oak screen across it. There are some early-19th-century wall monuments, and beneath the sill of the north-east window, within the sanctuary, is an aumbry of stone. The square recess is of dressed stone with a rebate for the door, which is modern. The hood-mould is a depressed ogee in shape, and is decorated by five maple leaves linked together by a flowing stem, the two lowest forming bosses. The chancel arch is modern with a two-centred arch revealing the full height of the chancel roof; the mouldings are Early English in type but heavily executed with Corinthian-type capitals.

The nave roof is modern, with braced principals supporting a collar-beam with a short king-post over, supported on modern foliated stone corbels. Both arcades consist of five arches of two chamfered orders on octagonal piers with semi-octagonal responds; the pier bases are mainly square, but are damaged and partly concealed beneath the timber flooring. They are early-13th-century. The arches to the south have on the nave side chamfered hoods, and all the head-stops are modern. The outer chamfered order is splayed out to the full width of the voussiors immediately above each abacus; the capitals vary—both responds and the western pier have bell capitals, the remaining piers have foliated capitals with plain flat leaf forms terminating in a boss at each angle.<sup>52</sup> The abaci combine the varied use of small roll mouldings beneath projecting chamfers. The south side of this arcade carries no hood. The opposite arcade carries a hood-mould on the south side; the only original head-stop is at the western end and is somewhat crude. The capitals to the responds provide support for the inner order of the arch only, the outer order being without impost. Over the four piers the stops to the inner order vary from those opposite, being pyramidal instead of splayed. All are bell capitals with varying abaci. The north side of this arcade has a hood-mould with mitred intersections and ancient head-stops at each end, that to the west being small and contemporary with the arcade, and that to the east being large and probably the work of the following century; below this head the respond is cut back and coved forward above the springing, probably to give access to the north-west end of the squint, which is now blocked and plastered over. The clearstory windows have an outer order which provides a rectangular splayed frame to the three lights of the inner order. On the west wall of the nave there is a chase cut in the stonework indicating a former nave roof of slight pitch and at a lower level.

The open roof of the south aisle, with braced rafters, is modern. The east bay is occupied by a small modern organ, at the back of which is the late-15th-century window, which has a flat internal sill beneath which is a recess with chamfered jambs, and a four-centred arch with a hollow within a wave-moulding, the former running into the arch and the latter forming a rectangular frame. Plain shields are superimposed at the outer ends of each spandrel and the remainder enriched with flowing foliage; the recess is 16 in. deep. The two 14th-century windows have small bases to the roll mouldings inside as well as externally. The bay at the west end forms a choir vestry, with modern screens.

<sup>51</sup> The character of the openings is very similar to those in the tower of Curdworth, the tower and spire of Coleshill, and others in this district.

<sup>52</sup> The octagonal form is preserved up to the abacus in every case.

## A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

In the north aisle the west window has a hood with original round carved heads as stops, but the hood-mould of the east window has modern head-stops. The bay at this end contains a recess in the north wall, built about 1300; its two orders of mouldings forming a two-centred head are much defaced. The outer order is stilted above the springing and consists of an enriched hollow mould; the inner mould includes a hollow and a roll with fillet which is supported on half-shafts with central fillets carried up into the bell capitals. This recess is also 16 in. in depth. There are 18th-century wall slabs on the north wall, and supporting a modern roof with braced principals are a series of modern stone corbels.

The tower arch is of two orders without impost; the inner is a large roll with central fillet and the outer is a sunk chamfer; the base consists of a hollowed splay which follows round the general contour of the jambs. The space beneath the tower has a bellringers' loft with a modern timber floor above it, a step-ladder giving access on the south side. The doorway to the stone vice pierces a splayed wall in the south-west corner; it has a four-centred head and consists of a single hollow-chamfered order. There are 18th-century wall slabs on the north side.

The box pews were fitted in 1821, and the aisles between them are paved with slate and stone slabs. There is a remarkable marble font. Its base consists of a single drum from an antique column with low relief convex flutes between fillets; a shape like an inverted bell cut out of the solid upper end supports a white marble bowl surrounded by figures carved to depict the Baptism of Christ and supported on four feet enriched with panels containing dolphins. A flat elliptical panel is sunk into the fluted side of the column which is inscribed thus: 'This fragment of antient Numidian marble was imported from Rome by Richard Hayward and given to this church MDCCCLXXXIX.' The carvings were executed by Hayward, who lived at Weston Hall, and he also carved the marble monument to his parents in the church.

None of the ancient glass referred to by Dugdale remains. A few of the windows are filled with modern stained glass and the remainder have plain glazing with bands of pale green glass (also modern).

Within the south porch, and bonded into the stone-work of the north wall, is a single voussoir from a 12th-century arch bearing zigzag enrichment, and in the south-west re-entrant angle is a late-12th-century bell capital.

There are six bells, of which the tenor is of the 16th century, probably by Thomas Newcombe; others are of 1605 by Newcombe, 1614 by John Greene of Worcester, 1676 by Henry Bagley,<sup>53</sup> and two recently added.

The registers begin for baptisms and burials in 1606 and for marriages in 1683.

Roger de Waterville gave to the Abbey of Leicester at, or shortly after, its foundation in **ADVOUSON** 1143 the church of Bulkington with its chapels of Barnacle, Weston, Ryton, Marston, Bramcote, Shilton, and Ansty,<sup>54</sup> of which

the two last were subsequently transferred to Coventry Priory and became independent parishes.<sup>55</sup> The church was appropriated to the abbey before 1291, when it was rated at £17 6s. 8d.,<sup>56</sup> and in 1535 the rectory was farmed at £17<sup>57</sup> and the vicarage was worth £6 10s. 6d.<sup>58</sup> After the Dissolution the advowson was retained in the king's hands until 1554, when it was granted to Thomas Reve and Giles Isham,<sup>59</sup> who sold it to Henry Waver, *alias* Over. He died in 1567, leaving a son Richard,<sup>60</sup> who presented to the church in 1595.<sup>61</sup> In 1633 George Belgrave is said to have presented,<sup>62</sup> but by 1662 the advowson was in the hands of the Crown<sup>63</sup> and it has so remained, the Lord Chancellor being now patron.

The rectory of Bulkington was acquired in 1587 by Robert Johnson, Archdeacon of Leicester, as part of the endowment of the grammar schools which he founded at Oakham and Uppingham.<sup>64</sup>

Robert FitzWyth, lord of Barnacle in 1337, owned land in that vill which was assigned to the maintenance of a lamp in the church of Bulkington.<sup>65</sup> A decayed chapel, possibly identical with the 'oratory' in the manor-house mentioned above, was included in a grant to George Page and others in 1606.<sup>66</sup> Another at Marston Jabet is mentioned in 1570<sup>67</sup> and was still included among the appurtenances of the manor as held by William Perkins in 1633.<sup>68</sup>

In 1345 William la Zouche was licensed to assign 8 messuages, 9½ virgates of land, and 30s. rent for the support of a chantry of two priests in the chapel of the Blessed Mary in Weston, which he had rebuilt, to celebrate for the souls of his ancestors, himself, William de Bois, William Danet, and Richard Dobyn.<sup>69</sup> But in 1347 he altered this foundation to one priest and an assistant.<sup>70</sup> The last presentation to this chantry seems to have been made in 1500 by John, Lord Zouche.<sup>71</sup>

John Coke in 1390 gave rents in Bramcote to provide lights for the high altar in the church of Bulkington.<sup>72</sup>

Bishop Hickman and others. It is recorded that Bishop Hickman gave £100 to this **CHARITIES** parish and William Incely gave £20 and other benefactors gave other sums.

It is supposed that these sums were laid out in the purchase of lands in Bulkington and Ryton. Out of the rents received 10s. is given by the churchwardens at Easter to ten poor widows and the remainder is distributed on St. Thomas's day amongst the poor settled parishioners of the parish.

William Lagoe by will dated 16 December 1735 charged certain property in Coventry with the payment of the yearly sum of 55s. to the minister and churchwardens of Bulkington to be applied by them in two sixpenny loaves to be distributed every Sunday morning in the church amongst the poor of the township of Bulkington and Ryton. He directed that the balance of 3s. should be paid on Christmas day to the minister and churchwardens equally as a small acknowledgement for their care in seeing to the distribution. The rent charge was redeemed in 1941 in consideration of the sum of £110 Consols producing an annual income of 55s.

<sup>53</sup> Tilley and Walters, *Church Bells of Warwick*, 127.

<sup>54</sup> Dugd. 57.

<sup>55</sup> Nichols, *Leic.* i, 284.

<sup>56</sup> *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 241.

<sup>57</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), vi, 469.

<sup>58</sup> *Ibid.* iii, 59.

<sup>59</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1553-4, p. 472.

<sup>60</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cxlv, 4.

<sup>61</sup> Dugd. 60.

<sup>62</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>63</sup> *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.).

<sup>64</sup> *F.C.H. Rutland*, i, 262.

<sup>65</sup> *Cat. Anct. D. iv*, A, 11047.

<sup>66</sup> *Pat. 4 Jas. I*, pt. 20.

<sup>67</sup> *Pat. 12 Eliz.* pt. 10.

<sup>68</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cccclxxvii, 100.

<sup>69</sup> Dugd. 61; *Cal. Pat.* 1343-5, p. 455.

<sup>70</sup> *Ibid.* 1345-8, p. 258.

<sup>71</sup> Dugd. 61.

<sup>72</sup> *Add. Chart.* 17382.



Poor's Piece. By an Inclosure Award dated 26 February 1771, 3a. 3r. 12p. of land was allotted to the churchwardens and overseers of the poor of Bulkington for the benefit of the poor inhabitants of the township.

William Croft by will dated 8 August 1919 bequeathed to the trustees of the Bulkington Congregational Church £300, the interest to form an

addition to the stipend of the minister of the church. The annual income of the charity amounts to £7 11s. 2d.

Charity for benefit of Minister of Congregational Church. By a Declaration of Trust dated 31 December 1855 a sum of £200 was settled upon trust, the income to be applied to the use of the legally officiating minister or pastor of the Chapel or Meeting House. The annual income of the charity amounts to £14 4s.

## BURTON HASTINGS

Acreage: 1,488.

Population: 1911, 169; 1921, 197; 1931, 227.

Burton Hastings is a parish in the north-east of Knightlow hundred, 3½ miles south of Hinckley in Leicestershire, the parish reaching to within a few hundred yards of Watling Street, the county boundary. The Soar Brook divides it on the north from Stretton Baskerville, and the River Anker on the west and south from Nuneaton, Bulkington, and Wolvey. The eastern boundary with Wolvey mainly follows the road from that village to Hinckley. The ground slopes from just over 400 ft. along this road to just under 300 ft. near the Anker. The Ashby de la Zouch Canal, a branch of the Oxford and Coventry Canal system, runs through the west of the parish, and near it is the small secluded village, connected by minor roads with the Coventry-Hinckley and Nuneaton-Lutterworth roads. The latter on its west to east course through the south of the parish passes Shelford, now a hamlet of six farms, but formerly a separate manor and as late as 1625 contributing a third part of the payments and levies on Burton parish.<sup>1</sup> Depopulation probably set in after the inclosures of the early 16th century, Henry Smyth in 1509-10 imparking 30 acres of arable and 100 of woodland and pasture in Shyrford,<sup>2</sup> now Shelford.<sup>3</sup> In 1783, 600 acres of Burton Hastings were inclosed.<sup>4</sup> There is now no woodland in the parish.

Siward Barn, who held *BURTON* in the *MANORS* time of Edward the Confessor, was an adherent of Hereward in the Isle of Ely.<sup>5</sup> In 1086 his lands, assessed at 4 hides and including 2 mills, were held by Ralf of Henry de Ferieres.<sup>6</sup> In 1235 one knight's fee in Burton and Shelford was held of the Earl Ferrers,<sup>7</sup> and in 1242 Henry de Hastings held this fee of the same overlord.<sup>8</sup> In 1266 the castles and lands of Robert de Ferrers were granted to Edmund (Crouchback), son of Henry III,<sup>9</sup> but the next tenants in chief were the Hastings, Earls of Pembroke, from whom the manor was often, after the beginning of the 14th century, called *BURTON HASTINGS*; in 1348 Laurence de Hastings, Earl of Pembroke, held one knight's fee, extended at £20 yearly,<sup>10</sup> as tenant in chief, his tenant being the heir of Nicholas de Turvill,<sup>11</sup> which Nicholas had been the actual tenant in 1269, when the fee was assigned in dower to Joan, widow of Henry de Hastings<sup>12</sup> (son

of the tenant in 1242). It was again held of the Earl of Pembroke in 1375 at the death of John, 2nd (Hastings) Earl,<sup>13</sup> who in 1369 had obtained royal licence to settle many of his estates on his cousin Sir William Beauchamp.<sup>14</sup> The widow of the latter held a knight's fee in Burton and Shelford at her death in 1435,<sup>15</sup> when the overlordship passed to Sir Edward Neville, husband of Sir William Beauchamp's granddaughter; he held the fee at his death in 1476,<sup>16</sup> after which date it cannot be separately identified.

In the reign of Henry II half of Burton Hastings was granted by Geoffrey le Abbe and Emma his wife, with the consent of their heirs Richard le Abbe and Ralph de Turvill, who was son of Emma, to the priory of Nuneaton.<sup>17</sup> The grant was confirmed c. 1170 by Earl William de Ferrers.<sup>18</sup> In 1316 Fulk de Orreby granted his lands in Burton to William de Herle,<sup>19</sup> who, with the prioress of Nuneaton, was the immediate lord of Burton with its members in the same year.<sup>20</sup> William heads the list of contributors to the subsidy in 1332.<sup>21</sup> His son Robert de Herle was licensed in 1344 to grant additional land in mortmain to Nuneaton priory,<sup>22</sup> and in the following year was appointed a justice of the peace.<sup>23</sup> He died in 1364, when his holding in Burton (of Agnes, Countess of Pembroke, as of her dower), was valued at £4 and passed to his nephew Sir Ralph de Hastings, of a cadet branch of the Hastings, Earls of Pembroke, tenants in chief at this time.<sup>24</sup> His grandson, another Ralph, was beheaded in 1405 for his part in Archbishop Scrope's rebellion,<sup>25</sup> but his brother Richard obtained restitution of his estates in 1410<sup>26</sup> and was sheriff of Warwickshire at various dates between 1414 and 1433.<sup>27</sup> In 1428 the land in Burton and Shelford formerly held by Robert de Herle and John de Sherford was reckoned as half a knight's fee.<sup>28</sup> At Richard de Hastings's death in 1436-7 his holding in Burton consisted of 6 messuages, 9 virgates of land, 2 cottages, and a water-mill,<sup>29</sup> which he left to his widow Elizabeth, with succession to his brother Sir Leonard Hastings. At her death in 1447 she was stated to hold the manor of Burton near Wolvey in dower, of Edmund, Lord Grey de Ruthin,



HASTINGS. Or a sleeve gules.

<sup>1</sup> *Warw. Co. Records*, i. 23.  
<sup>2</sup> Leadam, *Domesday of Incl.* 451, 651, 673.

<sup>3</sup> For evolution of this name see *Place-Names of Warw.* 103.

<sup>4</sup> Slater, *Engl. Peasantry and Incl.* 303. The Award is on Com. Pleas Recov. R. 24 Geo. III, m. 75.

<sup>5</sup> *Chron. Rog. Hoveden* (Rolls Ser.), i. 126. Cf. *V.C.H. Warw.* i, 282-3.  
<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.* 327.

<sup>7</sup> *Bk. of Fees*, 510, 515. <sup>8</sup> *Ibid.* 948.

<sup>9</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1258-66, p. 622.

<sup>10</sup> *Cal. Close*, 1346-9, p. 582.

<sup>11</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ix, 118.

<sup>12</sup> *Cal. Close*, 1268-72, p. 42.

<sup>13</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 40 Edw. III, m. 70.

<sup>14</sup> *Cal. Close*, 1374-7, p. 286.

<sup>15</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 14 Hen. VI, m. 35.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.* 16 Edw. IV, m. 66.

<sup>17</sup> *Dugd.* 52; *Add. Chart.* 48038-40.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>19</sup> *Dugd.* 52, quoting Cotton MSS.

<sup>20</sup> *Fewd. Aids*, v, 176.

<sup>21</sup> *Lay Subt. R.* (*Dugd. Soc.*), 54.

<sup>22</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1343-5, p. 348.

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.* 397.

<sup>24</sup> *G.E.C. Compl. Peerage* (2nd ed.), vi.

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>26</sup> *Dugd.* 53. <sup>27</sup> *Rot. Parl.* iii, 633.

<sup>28</sup> *P.R.O. List of Sheriffs.*

<sup>29</sup> *Fewd. Aids*, v, 193.

<sup>30</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 15 Hen. VI, m. 58.



whose grandfather was heir general of the last Hastings, Earl of Pembroke.<sup>30</sup> Sir Leonard Hastings was sheriff in 1453-4.<sup>31</sup> His son Sir William was created a baron by Edward IV,<sup>32</sup> but was beheaded for high treason in 1483,<sup>33</sup> when his son Edward, aged 17, succeeded.<sup>34</sup> Edward's son George was created Earl of Huntingdon in 1529<sup>35</sup> and sold the manor to Thomas Harvey, merchant,<sup>36</sup> after whose death the manor became divided amongst his four daughters and coheirresses, of whom the youngest, Lucy, married Thomas Cotton of Conington (Hunts.).<sup>37</sup> In 1565 they obtained two other quarters from Francis Haslerig<sup>38</sup> and Thomas and Anne Croftes,<sup>39</sup> and in 1570 they were dealing with three-quarters of the manor.<sup>40</sup> Burton came into the possession of Robert Cotton, one of Thomas's younger sons, who died without male issue in 1586, when it passed to his brothers Philip and John jointly, and on the death of the latter in 1636 to Sir Thomas Cotton, 2nd baronet, son of the antiquary.<sup>41</sup> Sir Thomas conveyed his three-quarters of Burton manor in 1637 to William Fitton,<sup>42</sup> and, in association with Richard Perkins, senior and junior, and Rebecca the wife of the latter, to Gilbert Fitch and William Perkins junior in 1650.<sup>43</sup> In 1708 the Cottons sold their share to Thomas Perkins, and he in 1714 to Sir Nathan Wright, Lord Keeper of the Great Seal,<sup>44</sup> who died in possession in 1721.<sup>45</sup>



COTTON. *Azure an eagle argent with beak and legs or.*

The remaining quarter of the manor was granted in 1597 by William and John Nowell to Michael Parkyns,<sup>46</sup> and by the latter in 1605 to Thomas Gilbert and Richard Orton;<sup>47</sup> it is perhaps to be identified with the 'manor' of Burton of which Thomas Pougher (1749-56) and John Finch (1784) were lords.<sup>48</sup> John Finch Simpson and others conveyed this manor to Charles Thomas Hudson and James Morrice in 1799.<sup>49</sup>

By 1744 the Wright portion had passed to the Aston family, who were lords till 1760.<sup>50</sup> In 1777 Philippa, widow of John Grove, joint lord of Shelford, was lady of Burton Manor,<sup>51</sup> which in 1783 became united with Shelford under William Cooper of Hinckley (Leics.).<sup>52</sup>

In 1900 Mrs. Barrs of Odstone Hall, Leics., was lady of the manor.<sup>53</sup>

**SHERFORD or SHERFORD.** Early in the 13th century Thomas Trove granted lands in Sherford to Combe Abbey, styling himself lord of Sherford.<sup>54</sup> Later in that century, one Simon attested a deed as lord of Sherford,<sup>55</sup> and in 1304 Joan de Bristol,

Prioress of Nuneaton, leased land to John, son of Simon de Schireford, and Ellen and their sons Simon and Edmund.<sup>56</sup> In 1327 John de Shirford granted to his son John, with contingent remainder to Eleanor, Margaret, and Catherine, sisters of the latter, property in Sherford, including a mill,<sup>57</sup> and in 1346 John de Shirford, with Robert de Herle, held land assessed at half a knight's fee in Sherford and Burton.<sup>58</sup> By the end of the 14th century the Sherford property had passed to the Purefey family, Philip Purefey of Misterton (Leics.) having married Margaret de Shirford,<sup>59</sup> no doubt the Margaret mentioned above. In 1394 William Purefey obtained lands in Sherford, reckoned as a third of the manor and perhaps representing the portion of one of the other two coheirresses Eleanor and Catherine de Shirford, from Thomas Bosevill and Katherine his wife,<sup>60</sup> who had been wife of Simon de Shirford.<sup>61</sup>



PUREFEY. *Sable three pairs of clasped hands in armour argent.*

John Purefey, brother of Henry, released the manor in 1472-3 to John Denton and Isabel his wife,<sup>62</sup> in 1491, John and Henry Purefey being both dead, Denton was given the keeping of their lands in Berks., Bucks., Leics., and Warwickshire, with the wardship and marriage of their cousin and heir Nicholas.<sup>63</sup> This Nicholas, with Alice his wife, conveyed the manor in 1507 to Sir Richard Emson and others.<sup>64</sup> By 1515 it had apparently been leased to the Smyth family of Coventry, when at the death of Joan Stafford, late wife of Henry Smyth, it was held by her son Walter, aged 14,<sup>65</sup> two years previously she had been granted the wardship of Walter, or of Henry his brother in the event of Walter's death.<sup>66</sup> The manor was finally sold to Sir Walter Smyth in 1545 by Nicholas Purefey, presumably the son of the previous Nicholas, and Katherine his wife.<sup>67</sup> Sir Walter was murdered in 1554 by his wife Dorothy, daughter of Thomas Chetwynd of Ingestre (Staffs.),<sup>68</sup> when his son Richard, who was originally to have been betrothed to Dorothy, was 22 years of age. Richard conveyed Sherford manor in 1564 to Sir Edward Lyttleton and others,<sup>69</sup> and died in 1593 leaving a son John aged 13,<sup>70</sup> to whom he intended to leave the manor in default of issue of the marriage of his daughter Margaret with William Lyttleton. But, according to Dugdale,<sup>71</sup> he was tricked by Sir John Lyttleton, William's father, and the manor actually passed to George, William's brother, who married Margaret Smyth after William's death, with reversion to the eldest brother Gilbert, who died in 1599.<sup>72</sup> The manor passed to the Crown on the attainder of John Lyttleton, Gilbert's son, for his share in the conspiracy of the Earl of Essex, but

<sup>30</sup> G.E.C. *Compl. Peerage* (2nd ed.), vi, 155.

<sup>31</sup> *Cal. Fine R.* xix, 74.

<sup>32</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1461-7, p. 103.

<sup>33</sup> Dugd. 53.

<sup>34</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. i Ric. III, no. 32.

<sup>35</sup> Dugd. 53.

<sup>36</sup> *Ibid.* ex inf. Sir Thomas Cotton.

<sup>37</sup> *Visit. Warw.* 1619 (Harleian Soc. xii), 305.

<sup>38</sup> Feet of F. Div. Cos. Hil. 7 Eliz.

<sup>39</sup> *Ibid.* Div. Cos. Mich. 7-8 Eliz.

<sup>40</sup> *Ibid.* Div. Cos. East. 12 Eliz.

<sup>41</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccclxxviii, 122.

<sup>42</sup> Feet of F. Warw. East. 13 Chas. I.

<sup>43</sup> *Ibid.* Trin. 1650.

<sup>44</sup> Dugd. 53.

<sup>45</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 39-40 Eliz.

<sup>46</sup> *Ibid.* Hil. 2 Jas. I.

<sup>47</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations, Shire Hall, Warwick.

<sup>48</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 40 Geo. III.

<sup>49</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations, Henry Hervey Aston was vouchee in recoveries of 1784 and 1786.

<sup>50</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>51</sup> Kelly's *Direct.* of Warw. (1900).

<sup>52</sup> Dugd. 54, quoting Reg. Combe, fol. 89 b.

<sup>53</sup> Add. Chart. 48047.

<sup>54</sup> Add. Chart. 49006.

<sup>55</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Cos. xv), 1647.

<sup>56</sup> *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

<sup>57</sup> Dugd. 54, quoting MSS. of Sir S. Clarke.

<sup>58</sup> Dugd. 54; Nichols, *Leics.* iv, 599.

<sup>59</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Cos. xviii), 2350.

<sup>60</sup> Add. Chart. 48072.

<sup>61</sup> Close R. 12 Edw. IV, m. 21.

<sup>62</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1485-94, p. 346.

<sup>63</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Cos. xviii), 2813.

<sup>64</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), xxx, 123.

<sup>65</sup> L. & P. Hen. I, iii, 1712.

<sup>66</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 37 Hen. VIII.

<sup>67</sup> Dugd. 55.

<sup>68</sup> Feet of F. Div. Cos. East. 6 Eliz.

<sup>69</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccxxviii, 110.

<sup>70</sup> Dugd. 56.

<sup>71</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cclviii, 71.

was granted back to Muriel Lyttleton his widow by James I.<sup>73</sup> In 1605 she and Edward Bromley leased it to Sir Thomas Cornwall and Ann his wife,<sup>74</sup> and shortly afterwards sold it to Sir John Hele, the lawyer, who disposed of it to his five sons. Dugdale may be right in connecting these frequent changes of ownership with the insecure title passed by the Lyttletons to the Heles, and refers to litigation between the Hele sons. The manor seems to have passed finally to Sir Francis, the second son, who died seised in 1623;<sup>75</sup> his son John was vouchee in a recovery in 1632.<sup>76</sup> The last mention of the Heles, by origin a Devonshire family, in connexion with this manor is in 1664, when Sir John Hele was vouchee in a recovery.<sup>77</sup> At this time Jane, Sir Francis's granddaughter, and her husband Sir Edward Hungerford (whose sister also had married into the Hele family)<sup>78</sup> were dealing with the manor.<sup>79</sup>

By the marriage of Mary, niece of Sir Francis Hele, to Thomas Hooke of Flanchford (Surrey)<sup>80</sup> the manor passed to her son Sir Thomas Hooke, bart., who dealt with it in 1664,<sup>81</sup> as did his son Sir Hele Hooke and his wife Hester in 1687.<sup>82</sup> On Sir Hele's death in 1712 it passed to his three sisters as coheirresses and so by their marriages to the Grove, Dyer, and Hamond families.<sup>83</sup> John Grove, Hele Dyer, and William Hamilton (? Hamond) were joint lords in 1765,<sup>84</sup> and the first-named with Michael and Elizabeth Heathcote and William Watson in 1766.<sup>85</sup> By 1778 the manor had apparently become reunited in the hands of William Cooper of Hinckley (Leics.),<sup>86</sup> who from 1783 also held Burton manor.

The half of Burton Hastings given to Nuneaton priory in the 12th century was valued at £5 17s. 8d. in 1535,<sup>87</sup> and in 1540 was granted to Sir Marmaduke Constable, junior, of London,<sup>88</sup> being confirmed to Robert Constable and his heirs by letters patent in 1561.<sup>89</sup> It passed with Stockingford (q.v.)<sup>90</sup> to Anne daughter of Sir Henry Willoughby<sup>91</sup> and presumably by her marriage to Sir Thomas Aston came to that family. It apparently lay in the Shelford portion of the parish, as Sir John Hele, who purchased the manor of Shelford at the beginning of the 17th century, held it of the heirs of Marmaduke Constable as of the manor of (Nun)eaton.<sup>92</sup>

The portion of Shelford granted to Combe abbey was the subject of legal proceedings in the middle of the 15th century between Richard, Abbot of Combe, and William Purefoy.<sup>93</sup> Probably it was sold to the Purefoys before the Dissolution, as it is not mentioned in the *Valor*.

The church of *ST. BOTOLPH* consists of CHURCH of chancel, nave, south porch, and west tower. It is built of cream-coloured sandstone and the chancel is roofed with bluish tiles; the nave and tower roofs, of slight pitch and concealed behind parapets, are covered with lead. Only the chancel and perhaps a portion of the tower masonry appear to date back to the 14th century. The present nave was rebuilt about the beginning of the 16th century, followed by the rebuilding of the tower.

<sup>73</sup> Dugd. 56.  
<sup>74</sup> Feet of F. Div. Cos. Trin. 3 Jas. I.  
<sup>75</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccxcviii.

<sup>76</sup> Recov. R. Mich. 7 Chas. I. ro. 16.

<sup>77</sup> Ibid. Hil. 16 Chas. II. ro. 49.

<sup>78</sup> Burke, *Extinct Baronetage* (2nd ed.), 269, 253.

<sup>79</sup> e.g. Recov. R. Hil. 13 Chas. II.

ro. 134; Feet of F. Div. Cos. Hil. 13-14

Chas. II; *ibid.* Mich. 14 Chas. II.

<sup>80</sup> *Compl. Baronetage*, iii, 253.

<sup>81</sup> Feet of F. Div. Cos. East. 16 Chas. II.

<sup>82</sup> *Ibid.* Mich. 3 Jas. II.

<sup>83</sup> Dugd. 56.

<sup>84</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations.

<sup>85</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>86</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>87</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 76.

<sup>88</sup> *L. & P. Hen. VIII*, xv, 733 (67).

During modern restorations the whole church has been re-roofed, the exterior walls partly renovated, with the new south porch added, and the interior (particularly the chancel) refitted.

Much of the east chancel wall has been refaced. Each diagonal buttress has two weathered offsets, the upper moulded, and the plinth, which returns round its base, also has two offsets, plain and moulded. Above a modern string-course a moulded parapet leads up to a modern gable-cross. Both mullions and all the tracery have been replaced in the three-light east window, of which the 15th-century hood-mould has a chamfered top and bottom and the fillet is widened at the springing into square stops enriched by rosettes. The jambs have two chamfered orders, the outer narrow, and each light has a trefoiled ogee head with a vertical bar over, dividing the window-head into trefoiled panels.

The side walls of the chancel are ancient, except for the modern parapet, and the plinth is continuous, stopping on the south side against the projecting walls of the nave. On the north it stops against a modern pier set in the re-entrant angle, which contains the modern heating flue and ends in a blue-brick stack at the parapet. A single two-light 14th-century window pierces the north wall in the west half. It has a square head, which has two chamfered orders, like the jambs, divided by a single fillet, and no hood-mould; the lights have trefoiled ogee heads. The south wall has two windows, that to the west being only 2 ft. from the nave, and of one light, similar to the opposite window, with its sill immediately above the plinth; the other, to the east, is two-light and similar, except that the square head is of greater height, having a quatrefoil above the trefoiled light.<sup>94</sup>

The nave plinth is 6 in. deeper than that of the chancel; its upper moulding is crude and there is hardly any offset, but two plain offsets are spaced out below. It returns round the four buttresses at the angles; they each have two weathered offsets, but they are disposed differently. That at the north-east angle is diagonal; the opposite east buttress is less in height and is set between square and diagonal, to avoid blocking the adjacent chancel window, the surface of the east gable twisting slightly into the east side of the buttress. Both west buttresses are set square. A modern moulded parapet runs the whole length of the north side; the east end stops against the embattled parapet<sup>95</sup> of the east gable, which rises 2 ft. 6 in. higher and is then pitched at the slope of the roof with a hollow string-course beneath it. The latter returns round the north end the thickness of the gable parapet (9 in.) but continues with the embattled parapet along the south wall to stop against the tower. The walls, which contain a few blocks of red sandstone, are pierced by three openings. On the north side is an original three-light window with a four-centred head, set in the eastern half. It has two orders, the inner a shallow hollow and the outer an ovolo. The detail is crude and the hood-mould is cut into the voussours, terminating in small elongated heads. Each light has a two-centred head

<sup>89</sup> Pat. 3 Elis. pt. 6.

<sup>90</sup> *F.C.H. Warr.* iv, 168.

<sup>91</sup> Add. Chart. 48060, 48062.

<sup>92</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccxi, 117.

<sup>93</sup> *E. Chan. Proc.* 111/185.

<sup>94</sup> If the drawing in the Aylesford Collection (c. 1820) is correct, the tracery of this window must be modern.

<sup>95</sup> The whole of the embattled parapet is original.

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

without cusps and the mullions, continuing to the window head, embrace a quatrefoil. In the west half there was a doorway which is now blocked flush with masonry. On the south side there is a door and a similar window. The doorway has a two-centred head without impost, a wave-moulding forming the single order. Both the doors and the porch are modern, the latter is timber-framed with unglazed openings above a stone base 3 ft. 6 in. high,<sup>96</sup> and it carries a tile roof, above which is a square sundial of slate dated 1867<sup>97</sup> immediately below the string.

The square tower is divided into two stages by a string-course at two-thirds of its height, and it stands on a plinth which returns round two diagonal buttresses at the western angles, having two offsets, the upper moulded and the lower hollowed. It rises 1 ft. higher than the nave plinth.<sup>98</sup> The buttresses extend 2 ft. above the string-course, and each has four chamfered offsets, spaced at increasing intervals towards the plinth. The east angles are plain except for separate horizontal lengths of played moulding facing east, 3 ft. below the string, matching the second offsets from the top of the west buttresses. There is a top hollow-moulded string-course surmounted by an embattled parapet with small crocketed and gabled pinnacles on the angles. On the south and west faces a lead spout projects from a vent piercing the moulded string. Two-light belfry windows occur on each face immediately above the string-course; each has two chamfered orders and two-centred heads.<sup>99</sup> The west face is also pierced by a three-light window, set low, the chamfered sill being raised one stone course only above the plinth. It has two chamfered orders, the outer one being deep and carried over as a depressed four-centred head. The centre light, like the others, is trefoiled but is stilted to reach the head. There is a small drip-mould with head-stops. The two other windows are unglazed, small, and rectangular, with chamfered surrounds, one immediately above the window last described, and the other lighting the tower vice on the south side, 6 ft. above the plinth and close to the west buttress.

The chancel has a modern oak roof with an octagonal boarded soffit treated with ribs and bosses. The main four-centred ribs divide the length into two bays and are supported on wall-posts above modern carved stone corbels. The roof of the nave is of modern open timber, although the massive tie-beams of the trusses may have been re-used from original 16th-century trusses. All the walls are unplastered, and those of the chancel have an oak-panelled dado, apparently formed out of 18th-century box-pews and topped by a modern embattled rail. The floors are paved in modern stonework.<sup>1</sup>

The east window is set between deeply splayed jambs, and the stone sill is formed with square bases to the mullions, having slightly rounded angles. To the north of it is a recess sunk in the stonework and cutting the upper line of the dado; it is 10 in. high by 7 in. wide. There is also a small piscina, 9 in. wide, with an ogee head, immediately below the east side of the south window. The window on the north side of the chancel

has an internal head of later date,<sup>2</sup> consisting of two cambered stones worked into a four-centred profile with a hollow-chamfered edge. The two south windows have been similarly treated; and probably at the same time the splayed jambs were replaced, that next the chancel arch being roughly cut back afterwards to widen the angle of light. The south wall in this corner is cut back high up.<sup>3</sup>

The chancel arch has a segmental head of two chamfered orders which are carried down into the jambs. Only the inner order carries a capital, which has a hollow mould set between a rounded necking and an abacus of two rolls inset below a square top. The north jamb continues down to the floor, but that to the south has a base with a square lower portion rising 23 in. above the present chancel floor; 18 in. above this the two chamfered orders are combined with an offset into a single splay. The splay on the side of the nave is partly covered by a stone facing in the same plane as the surrounding wall and may have been extended as backing to a small side altar.<sup>4</sup>

The upper and lower doorways to the vice, leading to the former roof-loft, open onto the nave and pierce the masonry north of the chancel arch, in a splay wall built from the jamb of the arch to the north wall of the nave. Each doorway carries a four-centred head in one block, and a continuous wave-moulded chamfer frames the opening, 20 in. wide; there are chamfered-stop bases to the jambs. Both doors and doorways are modern, these entrances to the vice having been reopened since 1902.<sup>5</sup> Some of the facing-blocks of the splay wall have indications of red pigment.

The windows in the nave have internal four-centred heads. Both sills are stepped, with the upper steps chamfered in almost the same plane as the mullions, and they are curiously set out of alignment with the walls, the west end of each upper step being 4½ in. back from the inner surface of the wall, and the east end 11 in. Farther west along the north wall the original doorway is blocked by masonry, forming a deep recess; a wrought-iron hinge projects from the re-entrant angle of one of the square jambs and the head is faced internally with two stone slabs, cambered and shaped into a four-centred soffit. A single stone corbel, carved into a human head, projects from this wall close to the west angle and 5 ft. beneath the feet of the rafters.

The south door has square jambs, and the curved head is cut away on the west side to make way for the original single door; the present double doors are modern. Farther east along the south wall (3 ft. from the south-east angle) are the remains of a piscina, 18 in. high. The trefoiled head is mutilated and the original projecting bowl has been cut back. It is only recessed 2½ in., and 18 in. below there is a 12-in. horizontal groove cut into the wall.

The west wall contains a tall four-centred arch spanning the full width of the tower. It has a single wide chamfered order,<sup>6</sup> plain and without impost, it stops 3 ft. above the floor level with pyramid-stops above a plain square angle. On each side, 18 in. above

sense of a piscina near by in the south wall of the nave.

<sup>5</sup> A pen-and-ink sketch of this date shows this part of the nave without the loft doorways; and the box-pews were there then.

<sup>6</sup> The arch chamfer on the tower side dies away against the tower walls.

<sup>96</sup> The plinth is cut away to accommodate the porch.

<sup>97</sup> Presumably the date of its restoration, as it is shown in the Aylesford drawing of c. 1820.

<sup>98</sup> On the south side it is defaced by rows of vertical grooves.

<sup>99</sup> They have lost both the cusping and hood-moulds shown in the Aylesford

drawing.

<sup>1</sup> The flat-stone of John Cheshire mentioned in Dugdale cannot be seen.

<sup>2</sup> Probably contemporary with the present nave.

<sup>3</sup> This would square it up with the unusual angle of the buttress it joins, as described above.

<sup>4</sup> This view is supported by the pre-

the nave floor, there is a roughly chamfered offset, and this plinth is cut off at the jambs of the arch. This work appears to be late 16th century and it is uncertain whether the remainder of the tower was built at this time or earlier in the same century. 'Traces of a former two-centred west arch can be seen above the present one,<sup>7</sup> and though its hood-mould has been cut off, it can be traced down to a point one stone course below the present springing.

The tower space has been screened off by an oak screen to form a vestry; it has unpierced panels and a door on the south side. Above the modern ringers' gallery, with its open timber balustrade, light is admitted from the west window into the nave.

Except for two Chippendale chairs in the sanctuary, the furniture is modern. But at the west of the nave are two ancient iron-bound chests; each is made out of a tree-trunk, and is 3 ft. 7 in. long, 18 in. wide, and 16 in. high. The ends are bound with wrought-iron straps and three iron strap-hinges extend over the lids, wrought with tapered ends. Close by in the nave also is a cream-coloured sandstone font. It has a modern stone base but the large block it supports appears to have been carved in the late 15th or early 16th century. The circular top is 2 ft. 4 in. in diameter and the drum tapers slightly downwards, becoming octagonal with round projecting fillets at the angles. At one third of its height the fillets divide, forming eight trefoiled heads over the side panels, and the spaces above are filled mostly with conventional flower-forms. It has a modern timber canopy 2 ft. in height.

The only monuments are a small number of 19th-century wall-tablets. A single medieval floor tile in a frame is displayed against the base of the chancel arch. It contains a quadrant of a circle decorated by leaf-patterns. On the west side of the inner order of vousoirs of the chancel arch are a series of wrought-iron hooks, one at the apex, two (originally three) below to the south and three to the north, the hooks facing away from the void. They are of ancient workmanship and evidently secured the latten veil above the rood-loft.

On the north wall of the ringers' gallery there is a painted panel depicting the royal arms.

There are five bells, of which three are ancient; two are dated 1657, one by Brian Eldridge and the other by Henry Bagley, and the third, undated, is probably by one of the Newcombes.<sup>8</sup> Two more were added in 1937.

The registers begin in 1574.

Between the south gate to the churchyard and the chancel there is a single yew tree, and facing the gate, on the opposite side of the lane, is an 18th-century farmhouse with a row of tall yew trees extending along the frontage.

<sup>7</sup> This may have been built considerably before the present nave.

<sup>8</sup> Tilley and Walters, *Church Bells of Warwick*, 120. <sup>9</sup> *V.C.H. Warwick*, i, 327.

<sup>10</sup> Add. Chart. 48038.

<sup>11</sup> *L. & P. Hen. VIII*, xv, 733 (67).

<sup>12</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cxxviii, 96.

<sup>13</sup> Ecton, *Tlacauria*, 95; Bacon, *Liber Regis*, 220.

<sup>14</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Hil. 9 Geo. III.

<sup>15</sup> Bacon, *Liber Regis*, 220. She was still patron in 1797 and apparently in 1822: *Clerical Guide*.

<sup>16</sup> Lewis, *Topog. Dict.*

<sup>17</sup> White, *Directory Warw.* 578.

<sup>18</sup> Kelly, *Directory Warw.* 1900.

<sup>19</sup> *Clergy List*, 1915.

<sup>20</sup> White, *Directory Warw.* 595.

There was a priest at Burton Hast-

**ADWOWSON** in 1086.<sup>9</sup> The church was granted to Nuneaton priory in the reign of Henry II by Ralph de Tureville at the request of his mother Emma, who had become a nun in that house.<sup>10</sup> In 1540 the estates of this priory in Burton, including the adwoson, were granted to Sir Marmaduke Constable,<sup>11</sup> who died in possession in 1560.<sup>12</sup> The adwoson then followed the descent of the manor of Shelford or Sherford, being reckoned as a donative in the 18th century.<sup>13</sup> In 1769 it was conveyed by John and Philippa Grove, Elizabeth Heathcote, Sir Thomas Dyer, bart., and William Watson (representatives of the families amongst which the lordship of Shelford manor was by this time divided) to Francis Wheler.<sup>14</sup> Mrs. Grove was patron in 1786,<sup>15</sup> though the manor had by then passed into other hands. In the 19th century the patronage changed hands several times; G. Greenway was patron in 1831,<sup>16</sup> the Rev. William Bucknill was patron and incumbent in 1850,<sup>17</sup> and the Rev. Digby Turpin similarly in 1900.<sup>18</sup> In 1915 Mr. F.D. Turpin was patron.<sup>19</sup> Since 1927 the living (with which Stretton Baskerville was merged during the 19th century)<sup>20</sup> has been in the gift of the Bishop of Coventry, and held with Wolvey.<sup>21</sup>

The value in 1291 was £5,<sup>22</sup> and in 1535 the rectory was farmed for 53s. 4d.<sup>23</sup> and the parish church was served by a stipendiary, who received £4 14s. 2d., plus 9s. 6d. for procurations and synodals.<sup>24</sup>

Two acres of meadow called Moorish Meadow and le Hassocks, in the field of Draycot, were given for the upkeep of a lamp in Burton church.<sup>25</sup>

**Feoffment Lands.** This charity, the **CHARITIES** endowment of which consists of hereditaments in the parish of Burton Hastings, is regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 1 September 1922. The scheme appoints a body of trustees to administer the charity and provides that the income of the charity shall, after the payment of a yearly sum of £5 to an Extraordinary Repair Fund, be applied primarily for repairing the causeway and streets in the town of Burton Hastings and subject thereto for the general purposes of the town and for the benefit of the inhabitants thereof. The annual income of the charity amounts to £40 (approximately).

Isaac Wells by will dated 22 July 1819 gave £40 to the churchwardens of Burton Hastings, the interest to be annually distributed by them in bread at the church door on Christmas Day immediately after divine service to the poor and indigent persons belonging to the parish. The annual income of the charity amounts to 19s. 8d.

<sup>21</sup> Crockford, 1935.

<sup>22</sup> *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 241.

<sup>23</sup> *Valer. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 76.

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid.* 60. In 1377 the Priores of Nuneaton granted 'the chantry' of Burton to Robert Warde, chaplain, for life, with a manse and the small tithes of Burton and Shelford: Add. Chart. 48053.

<sup>25</sup> Exch. Spec. Com. 1440, 19 Eliz.



# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

## CHURCHOVER

Acreage: 1,641.<sup>1</sup>

Population: 1911, 323; 1921, 274; 1931, 324.

The parish is bounded on the east by the straight line of the Roman Watling Street, which here forms the county boundary with Leicestershire. At the south-east angle of the parish, where Watling Street crosses a small stream at Holywell and Caves Inn Farm, are traces of earthworks, possibly marking the site of the Roman station of *Tripontium*.<sup>2</sup> It was probably here that in Dugdale's time 'a great Tumulus' caused travellers to turn out of their way;<sup>3</sup> and it was certainly round here that highway robbers lurked some three centuries earlier.<sup>4</sup> At the northern tip of the parish Watling Street passes over Bransford Bridge across the River Swift, whose sinuous course marks the western boundary of the parish. From Gibbet Hill, in the middle of this stretch of Watling Street, a road leads south-west and then west to the village of Churchover, close to the river. About ½ mile south of the village is Coton House, a large building of early 19th-century date, standing in extensive grounds<sup>5</sup> which contain traces of an earlier moated site. Nearly ½ mile farther south is a moated circular mound, which seems to be the site of an early castle.<sup>6</sup>

South-east of the church on the opposite side of the road is a house of L-shaped plan which shows in the end gable timber-framing of late-16th-century date. On the north side of the main street in the village is a row of four cottages built in brick with stone dressings. They have stone lintels of seven blocks with emphasized keystone and a moulded stone eaves-cornice; they date probably from the third quarter of the 18th century.

The mill, worth 2s., mentioned in the Domesday Survey<sup>7</sup> was no doubt on the Swift. In 1223 Cecily, formerly wife of William Shirewode, sued the Abbot of Combe for one-third of a mill in Coton, as dowry, her husband having become a monk at Combe.<sup>8</sup> The abbey's mill was valued at £1 in 1291.<sup>9</sup> A mill was attached to the manor of Churchover in 1600<sup>10</sup> but does not appear to be mentioned later.

The chief holding in 'Wavre' recorded *MANORS* in the Domesday Survey was 7 hides, which had been held before the Conquest by Waga (who gave his name to Wootton Wawen) and in 1086 were in the hands of Robert de Stafford.<sup>11</sup> The overlordship continued with the Staffords, two-thirds of a knight's fee being held in 1166 by Robert de Wavra as part of the 4 fees which Robert fitz Otes held of Robert de Stafford;<sup>12</sup> and in 1242 the fees of Robert de Stafford included half a fee in 'Roger's Waver', held by Ralph de Mora,<sup>13</sup> who was grandson of Robert fitz Otes.<sup>14</sup> The Roger whose name is used on this

one occasion to distinguish this Waver was apparently Roger de Waver, who in the time of Henry II confirmed to Combe Abbey the gift of 96 acres here made by his father, Robert, son of Seward de Waver.<sup>15</sup> The vill had, however, by this time acquired its distinctive name of *CHURCH WAYER*.<sup>16</sup>

The early history of the manor is obscure. It seems to have been divided between two coheirs before 1280, when Elizabeth, wife of John Beneyt, and Joan, wife of Thomas de Dadelinton, shared the advowson of the church.<sup>17</sup> Elizabeth, as a widow, conveyed her share to John, son of Simon de Shirford.<sup>18</sup> In 1292 Richard de Stapelford and Joan his wife held a moiety of the manor in her right.<sup>19</sup> John de Shirford and Ralph de Morton were lords of Churchover in 1316.<sup>20</sup> The advowson, and presumably the manor, in 1323 was held by Thomas Ireys and Alice Shirford.<sup>21</sup> One moiety was soon after this held jointly by Thomas Ireys and Agnes his wife and Philip Ireys and Alice his wife for the lives of the said wives, with reversion to John de Hampton, who in 1330 granted the reversion to Thomas, son of Geoffrey Ireys of Ansty.<sup>22</sup> Thomas and Philip Ireys and their wives Agnes and Alice in 1332 conveyed their moiety of the manor to Master Robert de Stratford<sup>23</sup> (later Bishop of Chichester and Chancellor). In 1337 John de Shirford conveyed one moiety of the manor to his brother Simon de Shirford, vicar of Nuneaton, and they jointly assigned it to William Purefey and to Philip his son.<sup>24</sup> John had three sisters, Eleanor, Margaret, and Katherine,<sup>25</sup> of whom Katherine married Walter de Knightcote of Leicester and in 1343 made over her rights in this moiety to Philip Purefey of Minsterton and Margaret his wife<sup>26</sup> (her sister).<sup>27</sup> Their descendant, Philip Purefey, died in 1468 seised of the moiety of the manor, which he left to his wife Isabel for life, with remainder to his son John (then aged 10) in tail.<sup>28</sup> The Purefey had held land in the parish since at least as early as 1277,<sup>29</sup> William Purefey being the largest tax-payer here in 1332,<sup>30</sup> and they continued to hold the manor until 1566, when John Purefey sold it to Sir Thomas Leigh.<sup>31</sup> In 1602 Sir William Leigh sold to William Bond,<sup>32</sup> who in turn sold it in 1605 to William Dixwell,<sup>33</sup> after which it descended with the manor of Coton (see below).

It seems probable that when Master Robert de Stratford acquired the Ireys moiety of the manor and advowson it was with the object of conveying it to Kenilworth Priory, as in 1333 licence was granted for the alienation of it in mortmain by the rectors of Landford and Lillington, no doubt Stratford's agents, to the priory.<sup>34</sup> From this time onwards till the Dissolution Kenilworth and the Purefeyes presented to the living

<sup>1</sup> In 1932 part of the township of Brownson (in Clifton) was transferred to this parish, and the area is now 2,047 acres: Kelly, *Directory* (1936).

<sup>2</sup> *P.C.H. Warw.* i, 230-1.

<sup>3</sup> Dugd. 15.

<sup>4</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1324-7, p. 202.

<sup>5</sup> Probably part of 'the great park' of Coton mentioned in 1551: *Cal. Pat.* 1550-3, p. 209.

<sup>6</sup> *P.C.H. Warw.* i, 368. <sup>7</sup> *Ibid.* 328.

<sup>8</sup> *Bracton's Note-Book*, no. 1586.

<sup>9</sup> *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 255.

<sup>10</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 42-3 Eliz.

<sup>11</sup> *P.C.H. Warw.* i, 328.

<sup>12</sup> *Red Bk. of Exch.* 264.

<sup>13</sup> *Bk. of Fees*, 951.

<sup>14</sup> *P.C.H. Warw.* iii, 131.

<sup>15</sup> Dugd. 15.

<sup>16</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1396-9, p. 55: inspeximus of charter of Henry II.

<sup>17</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xi), 953.

<sup>18</sup> Hamper's Notes to Dugdale's *Antiquities* (B.M.).

<sup>19</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xv), 1090: Philip de Niweham registered a claim.

<sup>20</sup> *Feud. Aids*, v, 176. <sup>21</sup> Dugd. 16.

<sup>22</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xv), 1674: Henry de Teddesleye registered his claim. He had sued John de Hampton for the manor two years earlier: *De Banco R.* Mich. 2 Edw. III, m. 156 d.

<sup>23</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xv), 1726: William Purefey put in his claim.

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid.* 1817: Walter de Knightcote and Katherine his wife put in their claim. Cf. Hamper's Notes, as above.

<sup>25</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xv), 1647.

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.* 1921.

<sup>27</sup> Dugd. 15.

<sup>28</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. 10 Edw. IV, no. 29.

<sup>29</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xi), 943.

<sup>30</sup> *Lay Subs.* (Dugd. Soc. ii), 50.

<sup>31</sup> *Recov. R.* East. 8 Eliz. ro. 147; Dugd. 16.

<sup>32</sup> Feet of F. Warw. East. 44 Eliz.

<sup>33</sup> *Recov. R.* Trin. 3 Jas. I, ro. 20.

<sup>34</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1330-4, p. 396.



alternately.<sup>35</sup> After the Dissolution the Kenilworth lands in Churchover<sup>36</sup> produced £4 12s. 8d. in rents from customary tenants,<sup>37</sup> and it seems probable that they constituted the so-called manor of Churchover, which was sold by Humphrey Burnaby and Cecily his wife to William Dixwell (his mother's nephew)<sup>38</sup> in 1619.<sup>39</sup>

As already mentioned, 96 acres in Churchover were given by Robert, son of Seward de Wavre, to Combe Abbey. Other gifts were made to the abbey, the most important being one of 6 messuages and 16 virgates of land from Alice, daughter of William Daus, in 1288.<sup>40</sup> By 1291 their lands here and at Newton (in Clifton) were producing £3 1s. in rents, with another 20s. for the mill, and 6s. from pleas of courts, &c., and a large farm was in operation, producing £5 from stock.<sup>41</sup> By the time of Richard II the monks are said to have had 6 messuages and 155½ acres of land here.<sup>42</sup> After the Dissolution, in 1539, the estates of Combe were granted for life to Mary, Duchess of Richmond,<sup>43</sup> and in 1545 she and Thomas Broke, merchant tailor of London, to whom the reversion had been granted, were licensed to alienate the manor of Churchover to William Dixwell, who was already tenant of part of the land.<sup>44</sup> He died in 1581, having settled the manor, in 1557, on his son Humphrey at his marriage with Helen Lowe,<sup>45</sup> and the manor descended in the family for 200 years with Coton.

The manor of COTON alias COTES may perhaps have held its origin in the 2½ hides in 'Wavre' which had been held before the Conquest by Alric, had subsequently been granted to Earl Aubrey (de Couci), and in 1086 were in the king's hands.<sup>46</sup> But if so this estate must have been joined to the main Stafford manor and been held with it by Robert fitz Otes, for in 1242 a half-fee in Cotes was held by the Abbot of Combe of William Trussell (one coheir of Robert), who held of Ralph de Mora (the senior coheir), who held of Robert de Stafford.<sup>47</sup> The abbey had acquired lands here by grants from Hugh and Simon Bagot.<sup>48</sup> Hugh Bagot had bought the half-fee from Ralph de Duverne, and gave it to his brother Ingeram.<sup>49</sup> Their brother Robert's son Roger died without issue, his eventual heirs being his sisters' children, Amice de Halesford and Peter de Cumbiton, who in 1246 sued the Abbot of Combe for half a knight's fee in Cotes and Newton.<sup>50</sup> The abbot evidently retained possession, as in 1285 he proved his right to court leet, &c., here,<sup>51</sup> and in 1290 had a grant of free warren.<sup>52</sup> Next year the abbey's grange of Cotes was said to contain 6 ploughlands, worth 20s. each.<sup>53</sup> This half-fee in 'Cotton on the Wolds' continued to be held of the earls of Stafford by the Abbot of Combe,<sup>54</sup> whose estate in 'Cotton Laywold' in 1535 was producing £15 6s. 8d.<sup>55</sup> After the Dissolution the manor was granted to the Duchess of Richmond for life,<sup>56</sup> and in

reversion on 16 November 1551 to Edward Fynes, Lord Clinton and Say,<sup>57</sup> who next day had licence to alienate it to Thomas Marrowe,<sup>58</sup> who on 24 November granted it to William and Elizabeth Dixwell.<sup>59</sup> It then descended in this family,<sup>60</sup> coming in 1640 to William



DIXWELL. *Argent, a chevron gules between three fleurs-de-lis sable.*



GRIMES. *Or, a border engrailed azure on a chief sable three scallops argent.*

Dixwell who for the past 5 years had been out of his mind.<sup>61</sup> William, son of Brent, Dixwell was created a baronet in 1716 but died without issue in 1757, when the title became extinct.<sup>62</sup> The manor then passed to his nephew, William Dixwell Grimes, who made a settlement of the manor in 1774.<sup>63</sup> He was succeeded about 1787<sup>64</sup> by Abraham Grimes, who built Cotton House, and his son Henry Grimes was lord of the manor and patron in 1850<sup>65</sup> and 1859.<sup>66</sup> About 1870 the manorial rights and patronage came into the hands of Francis Arkwright. After his death in 1915 the advowson passed to his nephew Bertram Arkwright,<sup>67</sup> but Mrs. Arthur James, J.P., is said to have been lady of the manor in 1936.<sup>68</sup>

The church of *THE HOLY TRINITY* consists of a chancel with vestry and organ-chamber on the south side, nave, north and south aisles, south porch, west tower, and spire.

The south arcade, south door, and west tower are the only medieval portions of the present building; the remainder dates from 1896 when the church was rebuilt, mainly in 14th-century style, by an architect named Bassett Smith. Before this restoration it consisted of chancel with apsidal termination, nave, galleried south aisle, south porch, and west tower. There was no chancel arch, the walls of the chancel and nave being continuous; they were probably of the late 13th century. The apse and south porch were modern additions.<sup>69</sup>

The south arcade is of three bays, of an average width of 7 ft. 7 in. between bases. The late-13th-century octagonal pillars were originally built of a pale grey stone, but show considerable modern repairs, as do the moulded capitals and bases. The two-centred arches, of two chamfered orders, do not fit the capitals, the outer order projecting considerably to north and south

<sup>35</sup> Dugd. 16.

<sup>36</sup> There is no mention of them in the valuation of the monastery's property in 1535: *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 66-7.

<sup>37</sup> *Mon. Bailiffs' Accts.* (Dugd. Soc. ii), 49.

<sup>38</sup> *Vitin. of Warw.* 1619 (Hart. Soc.), 146.

<sup>39</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Trin. 17 Jas. I.

<sup>40</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xv), 1061.

<sup>41</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 255.

<sup>42</sup> Dugd. 15.

<sup>43</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xiv (1), p. 595.

<sup>44</sup> *Ibid.* xii (2), 527 (42); xx (1), 624 (15).

<sup>45</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cxvii, 96.

<sup>46</sup> *I.C.H. Warwick*, 309.

<sup>47</sup> *Bk. of Feet*, 952; Dugd. 18.

<sup>48</sup> Cott. MS. Vitell. A. i, fol. 106-8.

<sup>49</sup> *Ibid.* fol. 106.

<sup>50</sup> Assize R. 952, m. 21.

<sup>51</sup> *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 777.

<sup>52</sup> *Cal. Chart. R.* ii, 343.

<sup>53</sup> *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 255.

<sup>54</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. 46 Edw. III, no. 62;

<sup>55</sup> Ric. II, no. 27; 22 Ric. II, no. 46.

<sup>56</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 54.

<sup>57</sup> *L. and P. Henry VIII*, xiv (1), p. 595.

<sup>58</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1550-3, p. 209.

<sup>59</sup> *Ibid.* 223.

<sup>60</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cxvii, 96;

<sup>61</sup> cxviii, 83.

<sup>62</sup> *Ibid.* cccxciii, 74.

<sup>63</sup> G.E.C. *Complete Baronetage*, v, 32.

From 1730 onwards he is described as 'Junatic': Gamekeepers' Deputations.

<sup>64</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 14 Geo. III.

<sup>65</sup> Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.).

<sup>66</sup> White, *Directory of Warw.*

<sup>67</sup> *Clergy List*.

<sup>68</sup> Burke, *Landed Gentry* (1937).

<sup>69</sup> Kelly, *Directory of Warw.* (1936).

Information from old photographs in the church, and from J. A. Cosins, M.S. 'Notes on Warwickshire Churches', iii, 188-94 (B.R.L.). Cosins saw the church in 1886. See also *Birm. Arch. Soc. Trans.* xxxi, 94 concerning a 'low-side' window.

## A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

of the abacus. The east and west imposts therefore take only the inner order, the outer being continuous with the respond. On each side of the arcade is a hood-mould, which above each capital is stopped on heads, those above the responds being at a slightly lower level than those above the piers.

The doorway in the south aisle is 13th-century. It has a moulded two-centred head and in the jambs two narrow attached shafts with poorly moulded conjoined capitals; there is a hood-mould with defaced head-stops. The rear-arch is modern.

The 15th-century west tower (about 10 ft. 6 in. square) is built of small coursed lias limestone rubble; at the angles are narrow diagonal buttresses of four offsets, and at the south-east angle a projecting stair-vice. Both tower and buttresses are built upon a heavy base of ashlar which has a moulded plinth. Externally there is no architectural indication of the internal divisions of the tower. The segmental-pointed tower arch is of three chamfered orders dying into the responds. The west window is of three pointed lights with chamfered jambs and mullions and pierced spandrels under a four-centred head; the middle light is cinquefoiled; those flanking it trefoiled. The original head and tracery were of red sandstone and now show considerable modern repairs in cement. The round-headed rear-arch has splayed jambs in which a few pieces of masonry appear to show axe-dressing. In the second stage the north, south, and west faces of the tower have each a small square-headed window. In the third stage, the bell-chamber, there is in each of the four faces of the tower a square-headed window of two pointed trefoiled lights with blind-traceried heads.<sup>70</sup> The parapet is recessed slightly, but has its angles emphasized by their being flush with the wall surface; the base of the parapet is indicated by a string-course, and the top carries a simple moulding. The octagonal stone spire is devoid of architectural ornament; it has two sets of four plain rectangular lights. Both tower and steeple were restored in 1911.

On the west wall of the north aisle, but formerly on the south wall of the chancel, is a monument,<sup>71</sup> erected in 1641 to Charles Dixwell of Coton and Abigail his wife. Two flat panelled marble pilasters with Corinthian capitals support an architrave frieze with strap-work ornament, and a moulded cornice. Beneath this entablature the kneeling figures of Charles and Abigail Dixwell face each other with a prie-dieu between them. Below are busts of four sons and one daughter. On the west wall of the south aisle is a monument<sup>72</sup> to Humphrey and Ann Dixwell, their daughter Mary, and her husband Robert Price. An entablature consisting of architrave, decorated frieze, and cornice is carried on three fluted Corinthian columns and linked by emphasized keystones to two shallow semicircular-headed recesses in which are two pairs of kneeling figures, each pair face to face with a prie-dieu between them.

Below this monument and near the respond of the arcade is a much-worn slab, mutilated, but showing an incised foliated cross. Above it is a small ancient capital or corbel.

The 12th-century font<sup>73</sup> is a truncated inverted cone

with a roll-moulding on the bottom edge, and cable ornament between two roll-mouldings on the upper edge. The base is modern, and the bowl itself shows slight modern repairs. The tall octagonal wooden font-cover is dated 1673; each panel has a formalized foliage design.

There are four bells,<sup>74</sup> two of 1622 by Watts, one of 1803, and one which is probably of the late 16th century.

There is a silver paten dated 1690 on the foot and an 18th-century chalice with cover.

The registers begin in 1658, but those between 1670 and 1721 are missing.

The advowson and rectory of *ADPOWSON* Churchover remained attached to the manor, as already related. The church was rated at £5 in 1291<sup>75</sup> and at £15 in 1535.<sup>76</sup>

At Holywell the Abbey of Rochester (Staffs.) had from an early date a chapel served by one of their canons as a chantry for the souls of Robert de Cotes, Richard Fyton, and other benefactors.<sup>77</sup> In 1320 the sheriff seized the chapel into the king's hands because the abbot had for two months failed to have service performed there. It was, however, shown that this was only because his canon, Godfrey Spigurnel, had been robbed there;<sup>78</sup> and in 1325 the abbot was licensed to transfer the chantry to his conventual church, on the ground that it was situated in a solitary dangerous spot on the highway of Watling Street, frequented by robbers.<sup>79</sup> The endowment of the chantry included 2½ virgates in Holywell, Churchover, and Clifton, held of the heirs of Robert de Cotes;<sup>80</sup> but the monks seem to have parted with the land before the Dissolution.

Abigail Harcourt. By an indenture *CHARITIES* dated 3 September 1627 certain arable lands, meadows, and pasture containing ½ yard-land in the common fields of Churchover were settled upon trust that the rent should yearly at Michaelmas and Lady Day in the parish church of Churchover be bestowed to the poorest people of the parish as should seem to have most need.

The Poor's Estate. The endowment of this charity, the origin of which is unknown, consists of a piece of garden ground known as the Poor's Yard in Churchover, together with the five cottages erected thereon.

The above-mentioned charities are now regulated by a Scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 16 August 1935, which appoints a body of trustees and directs that the yearly income shall be applied in providing coals and clothing or other necessities to be sold at reduced prices, or distributed gratuitously, to industrious poor parishioners who are incapacitated by age or other infirmity from supporting themselves by their own labour. The annual income of the charities amounts to £59.

The Rev. William Heygate Benn by will dated 10 August 1892 bequeathed to the rector and churchwardens of Churchover £500, the interest to be laid out in the purchase of flannel blankets, coal, or bread, to be distributed annually on or near to Christmas Day among the deserving poor inhabitants of the parish. The annual income of the charity amounts to £12 10s.

<sup>70</sup> These replace rectangular windows,

each of two plain lights with a transom at

two-thirds of their height, shown in a

drawing (c. 1820) in the Aylesford Collec-

tion.

<sup>71</sup> P. B. Chatwin, 'The Later Monu-

mental Effigies of the County of Warwick',

in *Birm. Arch. Soc. Trans.* lviii, 148-9.

<sup>72</sup> *Ibid.* 115-16.

<sup>73</sup> *Birm. Arch. Soc. Trans.* xliii, 43.

<sup>74</sup> Tilley and Walters, *Church Bells of*

*Warwick*, 135.

<sup>75</sup> *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 241.

<sup>76</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 58.

<sup>77</sup> The site of the chapel, which was

sometimes called a 'Priory', was later

occupied by Cave's Inn: *Archæologia*,

xix, 75-8.

<sup>78</sup> *Cal. Close*, 1318-23, p. 275.

<sup>79</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1324-7, p. 202.

<sup>80</sup> *Ibid.*

## CLIFTON-ON-DUNSMORE

Acreage: old parish, 3,659; modern parishes, Clifton, 2,731; Brownsover, 913; Newton and Biggin, 1,060.

Population: 1911, 627; 1921, 638; 1931, 769.

The ancient parish of Clifton-on-Dunsmore contained the hamlets or chapels of Brownsover (most of which has been included in the borough of Rugby since 1932) and Newton with Biggin. It is bounded on the east by Watling Street, which here forms the county boundary with Leicestershire and Northamptonshire, the three counties meeting where the Street crosses the River Avon by Dow Bridge—or Dove Bridge as it was called in the 17th century.<sup>1</sup> The southern boundary is formed by the Clifton Brook,<sup>2</sup> which then turns north-westward to form the southern half of the western boundary, joining the Avon at Brownsover Mill. Half a mile west of this point the River Swift, which forms the northern half of this boundary, enters the Avon. The Avon itself runs a sinuous course approximately south-west from Dow Bridge and separates Newton from Clifton. Another small stream runs south from Holywell on Watling Street past Biggin Farm and the hamlet of Newton into the Avon; on this stream Biggin Mill<sup>3</sup> presumably marks the site of the mill in Holme which belonged to the abbey of Combe in the 13th century<sup>4</sup> and was attached to the manor of Newton after the Dissolution.<sup>5</sup> This mill was given to Combe by William Scherewind by permission of Robert son of Fulk de Holme, who himself gave the monks a strip of meadow in Holme beside the mill of Cottele from one water-leet (*aqueductum*) to the other.<sup>6</sup> It occurs later as the mill of Cutulmyne in Holme, of which the abbey of Leicester had the tithes.<sup>7</sup> Conveyances of fractional shares in a mill at Clifton occur in 1359,<sup>8</sup> 1363,<sup>9</sup> and 1379,<sup>10</sup> and this was no doubt on the Avon, where Clifton Mill now stands.

Close to the mill is Clifton Mill Station on the L.M.S. Railway, Rugby to Peterborough line, while the main line from London to Rugby also runs for ½ mile through the parish in the extreme south. Roughly parallel with and just inside the streams which form the parish boundary on the west is a section of the Oxford Canal.

Rather less than ½ mile east of the railway station is the church, round which lies the village, with the road from Rugby passing through it and branching northwards through Newton to Market Harborough and east over Dunsmore to Watling Street. Lanes and footpaths lead south-west for 1½ miles from Newton to the hamlet of Brownsover, where slight traces of a prehistoric (?) earthwork<sup>11</sup> are still visible near the church. The grounds round and extending north of Brownsover Hall are well treed, but otherwise the parish is open and contains no woodland. Much of it has in recent

years been occupied by the installation of the Rugby Radio Station of the Post Office.

In Brownsover, north-west of the church, is a late-16th-century timber-framed house of L-shaped plan, much restored; and near by a small timber-framed barn has been converted to a cottage. At Newton, which has a brick church built in 1901 and enlarged in 1910, there is on the west of the village an L-shaped house of early-17th-century origin but much modified in the 18th century. Similarly on the east, in a lane leading to Cathorpe, a house now encased in 18th-century brick shows 17th-century timbering inside.

Common fields within the parish, to the amount of about 700 acres, were inclosed under an Act of 1756.<sup>12</sup>

Of the persons associated with Clifton the most important is, perhaps, Laurence Sheriffe. He is believed to have been born in the parish; after making money as a grocer in London he bought the rectory and farm of Brownsover, formerly held by Leicester Abbey, in 1562<sup>13</sup> and by his will in 1567 left it, with other property, for the foundation of the grammar school of Rugby.<sup>14</sup> Christopher Harvey, who was vicar of Clifton from 1639 to 1663, wrote sufficient theology and minor poetry to gain a place in the *Dictionary of National Biography*, and a later vicar, Samuel Carte, was an antiquarian of some distinction and father of the respectable historian Thomas Carte.<sup>15</sup> Edward Cave, who founded the *Gentleman's Magazine* in 1731, is said to have been born in 1691 at Newton,<sup>16</sup> but his birthplace—'Cave's Hole'—seems to have been just over the parish boundary in Churchover.

In the time of Edward the Confessor *MANORS* Ælfwine the sheriff gave the 5 hides of *CLIFTON* to the Priory of Coventry for the good of his soul, with the consent of his sons and of King Edward. Earl Aubrey (de Couci) after the Conquest seized this estate and in 1086 it was included among his lands then in the King's hands,<sup>17</sup> and although definitely said to have been wrongfully taken from the monks<sup>18</sup> it was not restored to them. The overlordship came to the earls of Leicester and descended to the Earl of Winchester, of whom a knight's fee was held in 1235.<sup>19</sup> Robert le Bossu, Earl of Leicester, enfeoffed Ernald de Bois,<sup>20</sup> who gave the church to Leicester Abbey.<sup>21</sup> This mesne lordship descended with Weston-in-Arden in Bulkington (q.v.) to the Zouches, the manor being held in 1500 of Lord Zouche as of his manor of Weston.<sup>22</sup>

The manor was held by William Revel, who had a grant of free warren here in 1299,<sup>23</sup> as did his son John in 1327.<sup>24</sup> William had entailed the manor in 1307,<sup>25</sup> and as John's sons, John and Sir William, left no issue the estates went to their three sisters, and Clifton manor

<sup>1</sup> *Warw. Co. Rec.* iv, 139, 189.

<sup>2</sup> Probably 'the stream called Wovere Water', c. 1200: Hamper's Notes on Dugdale's *Antiquities* (B.M.); Harl. MS. 7505, fol. 1.

<sup>3</sup> In 1629 Thomas Varnam of Swinford, labourer, aged 102, said that he had known Biggin Mills for 90 years and that they were always reputed part of the manor of Biggin and Holme: Exch. Dep. by Com. Mich. 4 Chas. I. no. 14.

<sup>4</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xi), 342.

<sup>5</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xix (2), 527 (42); Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), xciv, 101.

<sup>6</sup> Cott. MS. Vitell. A.I, fols. 117, 118 v.

<sup>7</sup> Nichols, *Leics.* i, app. 82.

<sup>8</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xviii), 2175.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid. 2216.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid. 2252.

<sup>11</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* i, 363-4. It is worth noting that in 1629 certain aged witnesses deposed that Brownsover Park, which had been enlarged from the common fields to 30 acres, anciently contained not more than 4 acres, adjoining the churchyard, its old banks and ditches being still visible: Exch. Dep. by Com. Mich. 4 Chas. I. no. 10.

<sup>12</sup> 29 Geo. II, c. 40.

<sup>13</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1560-3, p. 230.

<sup>14</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* i, 360; *Dict. Nat.*

*Biog.*

<sup>15</sup> *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

<sup>17</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* i, 296.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid. 305, 308.

<sup>19</sup> *Bk. of Fees*, 509.

<sup>20</sup> Dugd. 9.

<sup>21</sup> *Cal. Chart.* R. iii, 380 (*inexpimus* of charter of Henry II).

<sup>22</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII*, ii, 352.

<sup>23</sup> *Cal. Chart.* R. ii, 478.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid. iv, 35.

<sup>25</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xv), 1262, 1265

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

evidently fell to the share of Joan, who had married Robert Whitney,<sup>26</sup> in which family it descended for 300 years. In 1395 a knight's fee in Clifton-on-Dunsmore was said to be held of Sir William la Zouche by Robert Wytteney, Thomas Meryngton, and John Waunden.<sup>27</sup> Of Waunden nothing more appears to be recorded, but in 1379 Thomas Meryngton had acquired a moiety of a mill and a virgate of land in Clifton from Nicholas and Isabel Walcote and Richard and Joan Passemere.<sup>28</sup> James, son of a later Robert Whitney, died in 1500 seised of the manor, valued at 20 marks, leaving by his wife Blanche, daughter of Simon Milborne, a son Robert, then aged 6.<sup>29</sup> Sir Robert Whitney was succeeded in 1567 by his son (Sir) James,<sup>30</sup> on whose death in 1588 his brother Eustace inherited the manor.<sup>31</sup> Eustace died in 1608<sup>32</sup> and his son Sir Robert died between 1648<sup>33</sup> and 1655, in which year his widow Anne took part in a family settlement.<sup>34</sup> In 1665 Thomas Whitney conveyed the manor to John Bridgeman,<sup>35</sup> in whose family it remained until 1790, when Sir Henry Bridgeman sold it to John Townsend,<sup>36</sup> whose grandson<sup>37</sup> Thomas Sutton Townsend held it until his death in 1918, when it passed to his daughter Mary Frances, wife of Edward Gawne Roscoe, present lady of the manor.<sup>38</sup>

In 1086 Geoffrey de Wirce had 2 hides in 'Gaura', which were held of him by Bruno,<sup>39</sup> from whom the place obtained its name of **BROWNCOVER**. Most of Geoffrey's estates passed to the Mowbrays, but this followed the descent of Clifton and in 1236 a half-fee here belonged to the Earl of Winchester.<sup>40</sup> The overlordship came to the family of Hastings, Lords Bergavenny and Earls of Pembroke,<sup>41</sup> and a mesne lordship was held by the descendants of Ernald de Bois, John de Bois establishing his right to court leet and other franchises here as a member of his manor of Weston-in-Arden in 1285.<sup>42</sup> At the end of the 12th century Maud Banastre<sup>43</sup> was lady of 'Wavere'.<sup>44</sup> She was probably the daughter of Thurstan Banastre, <sup>45</sup> wife of (? Sir) Henry de Hastings, and mother of William de Hastings who inherited land in Shropshire from her in 1222.<sup>46</sup> In 1280 Robert Houel and Eleanor his wife conveyed the manor of Browncover to Theobald Malegale and Nicholas Test, merchants of Lucca, to hold of them and of the heirs of Eleanor by yearly rent of one penny.<sup>47</sup> Against this Hugh Peche and Ida his wife registered their claim.<sup>48</sup> It is probably more than a coincidence that in 1281 John de Bois owed 25 marks to Nicholas Test and his partners, for the payment of which he pledged his lands in Warwickshire.<sup>49</sup> The merchants held the manor until 1292, when they sold it to William Revel,<sup>50</sup> who held the half-fee in 1313,<sup>51</sup> as did his son John in 1325.<sup>52</sup> Although it had been entailed in 1307 with Clifton (see above) it did not descend with that manor and its history is obscure until 1471,

when Thomas Bellers is said to have released the manor to Richard Boughton,<sup>53</sup> who was sheriff of the county under Richard III and died at, or immediately before, the battle of Bosworth in 1485.<sup>54</sup> With his descendants it has remained until the present time. On the death of Richard's grandson Edward Boughton in 1548 the manor came into the hands of the Crown during the nonage of his son William.<sup>55</sup> The latter died in 1596,<sup>56</sup> and his son Edward in 1625.<sup>57</sup> Edward's son William was created a baronet in 1641; his eldest son Sir Edward left no issue and was succeeded by his brother Sir William, who died in 1683. On the death of his great-grandson Sir Theodosius Boughton in 1780 Browncover passed to Theodosia, sister of the last baronet, who had married first Capt. John Donellan (who was executed in 1781 for the murder of Sir Theodosius)<sup>58</sup> and after his death Sir Egerton Leigh, bart., whose only daughter Theodosia married John Ward of Guilsborough (Northants.). He in 1831 assumed the additional names of Boughton and Leigh, and in 1937 the



BOUGHTON. *Sable three crescents or.*



LEIGH. *Or a lion gules.*



WARD. *Azure sprinkled with drops or a cross patee or.*

manor was held by Henry Allesley Ward-Boughton-Leigh,<sup>59</sup> on whose death in 1938 it passed to his widow, the present lady of the manor.

In 1086 Turchil had three estates in **NEWTON**: the largest of these, which had been held before the Conquest by Wistan, was of 2 hides and was held of him by Godric; each of the others was rated at  $\frac{1}{2}$  hide and they were held respectively by Alde and Ralf.<sup>60</sup> Turchil's descendant Henry de Arden confirmed a grant of land here made by the younger Geoffrey de Clinton to Kenilworth Priory at the burial of his father, the founder of the priory,<sup>61</sup> to which house Ernald de Bois gave 2 hides which had been given to him by the same Geoffrey.<sup>62</sup> Part of Newton came to Ralph de Duverne, from whom Hugh Bagot bought it, with Coton in Churchover (q.v.), and gave it to his brother Ingeram to hold of Robert fitzOtes.<sup>63</sup> Ingeram's son

<sup>26</sup> Dugd. 81, pedigree of Revel.

<sup>27</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. 19 Ric. II, no. 52.

<sup>28</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xviii), 22, 52.

<sup>29</sup> Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII, ii, 352.

<sup>30</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cxlvi, 126.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid. ccxix, 76. <sup>32</sup> Ibid. ccv, 109.

<sup>33</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Hil. 23 Chas. I.

<sup>34</sup> Ibid. Hil. 1654 (5): 7 Whitneys and

<sup>35</sup> 11 couples whose wives were probably Whitneys were concerned.

<sup>36</sup> Ibid. East. 17 Chas. II.

<sup>37</sup> Recov. R. Hil. 30 Geo. III, no. 40.

<sup>38</sup> Burke, *Landed Gentry* (1906).

<sup>39</sup> Kelly, *Handbook* (1948).

<sup>40</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* i, 336.

<sup>41</sup> *Bk. of Feet*, 509.

<sup>42</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, p. 234; *ibid.* vi, p. 392;

*Chan. Inq. p.m.* 49 Edw. III, no. 70.

<sup>43</sup> *Plac. de Quo Warr.* 784.

<sup>44</sup> See *V.C.H. Lancs.* vii, 285, n. 11.

<sup>45</sup> Harl. MS. 7505, fol. 1.

<sup>46</sup> *Rot. de Obl. et Fin.* 213.

<sup>47</sup> *Exc. & Rot. Fin.* i, 87.

<sup>48</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xi), 955.

<sup>49</sup> Ibid. Hugh Peche held land in Brown-

cover of Ernald de Bois as of his manor of

Weston in 1262: Assize R. 954, m. 34.

<sup>50</sup> *Cal. Close*, 1279-88, p. 120.

<sup>51</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xv), 1092.

<sup>52</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, p. 234.

<sup>53</sup> Ibid. vi, p. 392.

<sup>54</sup> Dugd. 12; *Exch. Dep. by Com. Mich.*

<sup>55</sup> *Chas. I.* no. 10.

<sup>56</sup> Kimber, *Baronetage of Engl.* i, 393.

<sup>57</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1547-8, p. 308.

<sup>58</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cxlv, 60.

<sup>59</sup> Ibid. ccccxiii, 136.

<sup>60</sup> G.E.C. *Complete Baronetage*, ii, 122.

<sup>61</sup> Burke, *Landed Gentry* (1937).

<sup>62</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* i, 322.

<sup>63</sup> *Mon. Angl.* vi, 221.

<sup>64</sup> Dugd. 12.

<sup>65</sup> In 1354 John Trussell, one of the co-

heirs of fitzOtes, was intermediary between

Combe and the Earl of Stafford for this

land: *Wm. Salt Soc.* xii, 128.



Simon sold 3 virgates to the abbey of Combe and in 1240 his widow Nichole released to the abbot her right of dower in Cotes and Newton.<sup>64</sup> In 1242 Combe held  $\frac{1}{2}$  knight's fee of Robert de Stafford in Newton;<sup>65</sup> in 1276 they are said to have had 8 virgates here, and in the time of Richard II 11 virgates, each containing 48 acres.<sup>66</sup> The abbey property here yielded £3 2s. 8d. in 1535<sup>67</sup> and was included in the grant for life made to Mary, Duchess of Richmond and Somerset, in 1539.<sup>68</sup> She, with Thomas Brooke and John Williams, in 1544 granted the reversion of the manor of Newton to William Leigh.<sup>69</sup> He died seised of the manor in 1550, his heir being his son Henry, who died in 1561.<sup>70</sup> Either his son Sir Edward or the latter's son Henry Leigh sold the manor to Alexander Martin,<sup>71</sup> who died seised thereof on 24 December 1624, when his son William was just under 11 years old,<sup>72</sup> leaving it to his widow Anne for life. William Martin had livery of the manor in 1636,<sup>73</sup> and when Dr. Thomas wrote (c. 1730) it was held by Mrs. Grace Martin, mother of William Martin.<sup>74</sup> It was probably this William who was dealing with the manor in 1775,<sup>75</sup> Thomas Wall held the manor between 1791 and 1825,<sup>76</sup> William Martin Parsons was lord of the manor of Newton between 1844 and 1878,<sup>77</sup> and from him it has descended to Capt. R. E. J. Parsons.<sup>78</sup>

A so-called manor of Newton, 'late part of the possessions of the dissolved monastery of Combe', was in the hands of John Smith when he died in 1608 and descended to his son John.<sup>79</sup> It presumably originated in the tenement held of the Combe manor by Thomas Smith in 1544.<sup>80</sup>

The property of the monastery of Kenilworth in Newton, which was valued at £1 14s. 3d. in 1291<sup>81</sup> and was producing £5 10s. 2d. at the Dissolution,<sup>82</sup> was granted in 1554 to Sir Rowland Hill and Thomas Leigh, alderman of London,<sup>83</sup> younger brother of William Leigh.<sup>84</sup>

In 1086 Turchil held 2 separate hides in HOLME, of which one was held of him by its pre-Conquest tenant Ulvric and the other, previously held by Ustan (no doubt the Wistan who had held the 2 hides in Newton) was then held by Ralf.<sup>85</sup> The overlordship passed to the Earl of Warwick, of whom  $\frac{1}{2}$  knight's fee was held in 1242 by Thomas de Arden,<sup>86</sup> this being probably identical with the  $\frac{1}{2}$  fee held in 1235 by Robert de Holme.<sup>87</sup> The latter was probably the Robert, son of Robert, son of Fulk de Holme, who, like his father, made some small grants of land to the Abbey of Leicester.<sup>88</sup> That Abbey also acquired from the abbey of Rochester 2 roods of land in Centelemedwe adjoining their own meadow in exchange for 2 roods in Newbiggin,<sup>89</sup> and in 1403 the fees awarded in dower to Margaret, widow of Thomas de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, included  $\frac{1}{2}$  fee in Holme formerly held by the abbot of Rochester<sup>90</sup> (Staffs.), which passed on her death to Earl Richard.<sup>91</sup> There appears to be no evidence of how Rochester had obtained this or when they

parted with it. Part, at least, of the Holme estate became the manor of NEWBIGGIN, which is first met with in the hands of John Depyng, clerk, between 1402 and 1405.<sup>92</sup> In 1521 Sir John Harper of Rushall (Staffs.) died seised of the manors of Newbiggin and Holme, held of the king as of the barony of Stafford, which had been settled in remainder on William Leigh and Elizabeth his wife, one of John's daughters, in tail, with contingent remainder to Dorothy, another daughter, and Thomas Horde her husband.<sup>93</sup> William Leigh, as already mentioned, acquired the manor of Newton, but the properties were separated at some time after the death of his son Henry in 1561 and the Biggin estate came into the hands of the younger line of the Leighs and descended with the manor of Dunchurch (q.v.), the manors of Newton and Biggin being held in 1723 by the Duke of Montagu and in 1779 and 1823 by the Duchess of Buccleuch.<sup>94</sup>

The church of ST. MARY consists of CHURCHES of a chancel, north vestry, nave, north and south aisles, west tower, and south porch. It stands on the highest ground in the village, at the east end.

Approximate internal measurements are: chancel 31 ft. by 14 ft. 9 in., nave 44 ft. by 16 ft. 8 in., south aisle 45 ft. 3 in. by 12 ft. 9 in., tower 12 ft. 6 in. by 10 ft.

The earliest remains of a church here are probably of the 12th century; they consist of the masonry at the west end of the south chancel wall, a priest's door, and perhaps masonry in the north wall, now concealed by plaster. The chancel was rebuilt and lengthened in the first quarter of the 13th century, and about a century later the present nave was built. There is no indication of the existence of earlier aisles. In the 15th century the south aisle was rebuilt and widened, the north aisle re-roofed, and the clearstory added. Probably at some time during the 16th century the tower was added, having originally a spire, pulled down in 1639, as Dugdale says, to save the cost of repair.

Considerable repairs were done in 1818, a date which appears on a rainwater head of the south aisle, and in 1894 the whole church was restored by G. F. Bodley.

External stucco, internal plaster, and extensive restoration combine to render uncertain the dating of some parts of this church.

The chancel has an east window of the early 13th century, a triplet of lancets of which the centre is the tallest and widest, all having chamfered jambs and mullions. The wide-played rear-arch has a chamfer continuous in the head and jambs; the latter project considerably from the splay.

Externally the east wall, which is of coursed rubble with ashlar angle-dressings, shows below the window ledge a slight thickening or offset, also treated with ashlar. Three feet below this offset is a single course of larger masonry extending the width of the window.

<sup>64</sup> Dugd. 13; Cott. MS. Vitell. A.1, fol. 106-8. <sup>65</sup> *Bk. of Fees*, 951.

<sup>66</sup> Dugd. 13. <sup>67</sup> *Mon. Angl.* v, 585.

<sup>68</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xiv (1), p. 595.

<sup>69</sup> *Ibid.* xix (2), 527 (24), 690 (67).

Brooke and Williams had a grant of the reversion from the king: *Anct.D.* (P.R.O.), E. 918.

<sup>70</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), xciv, 101.

<sup>71</sup> Dugd. 13. He held his first court of the manor in 1613; *Ct. R.* at Shakespeare's Birthplace, S-on-A.

<sup>72</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), ccciii, 17.

<sup>73</sup> Fine R. 11 Chas. I, pt. 3, no. 11.

<sup>74</sup> Dugd. 11.

<sup>75</sup> *Recov. R. Mich.* 16 Geo. III, ro. 67.

<sup>76</sup> *Ct. R.* 77 *Ibid.* 78 *Ibid.*

<sup>77</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccxi, 63;

Fine R. 10 Jas. I, pt. 2, no. 4.

<sup>78</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xix (2), 527 (42).

<sup>79</sup> *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 254.

<sup>80</sup> *Mon. Angl.* vi, 225; *Mon. Bailiffs*

*Accr.* (Dugd. Soc.), 47.

<sup>81</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1554-5, p. 191.

<sup>82</sup> *Vintanov of Warw.* 1619 (Hart Soc.), 81.

<sup>83</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* i, 322.

<sup>84</sup> *Bk. of Fees*, 957.

<sup>85</sup> *Ibid.* 508, 512.

<sup>86</sup> Nichols, *Leics.* i, app. 80.

<sup>87</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>88</sup> *Cal. Close*, 1402-5, p. 74.

<sup>89</sup> *Ibid.* 1405-9, p. 183.

<sup>90</sup> De Banco R. 577, m. 440.

<sup>91</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), xxxvii, 138.

<sup>92</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations, Warwick.



## A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

Above the window is a shallow recess with irregular edges, about 8 ft. long and three rubble courses high. At the south end of the east wall, adjacent to the ashlar angle-dressings and above the offset, are three patches of brickwork, each of five courses of bricks averaging between  $7\frac{1}{2}$  and 9 in. long by  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. thick.

The north wall of the chancel is completely stuccoed externally, and, like the east and south walls, is plastered internally. It contains an early-13th-century lancet with chamfered jambs and head; the wide-splayed rear-arch, with a pointed chamfered head, is of rubble with ashlar angle-dressings. The vestry is modern. It has in the south wall a recess built to contain the organ, which was not, however, put there but at the west end of the nave.<sup>95</sup> The east and north walls have each a square-headed window of three pointed cinquefoiled lights, with a label. There is a north door to the vestry.

There are three windows in the south wall of the chancel. The easternmost, of the early 13th century, is of two coupled lancets with chamfered jambs and head, both heads being formed out of a single block of stone. The second window is similar; part of its jambs shows axe-dressing. It has wide-splayed jambs, and below the rear-arch the wall has been recessed to form a seat. West of this window is a priest's door, round-headed, with a continuous chamfer in jambs and head, each jamb showing a sandstone repair. The modern rear-arch has a segmental head. The doorway is probably a survival of the 12th-century building; the tooling of the jambs, however, nowhere shows the axe-dressing typical of the 12th century. The masonry of the wall is mainly coursed rubble, but above and to the west of the priest's door this material is larger and roughly squared; parts of it are restored. Underneath and between the first two windows is what appears to be a single bonding course of ancient thin brick. At the west end is a small, modern, round-headed window, placed high up and doubtless replacing the 'wide modern square-headed window'<sup>96</sup> formerly over the priest's door. Internally the south wall has at its east end a piscina, its square head and jambs being chamfered, and having an ancient bowl and drain. The east jamb has a slight roll-moulding extending the width of the chamfer just above its termination.

The chancel roof, of collar-beam type with curved braces and ridge-piece, is modern.

The modern chancel arch is of two moulded orders, of which the outer is continuous in head and jambs and the inner is carried on responds. As late as the early 19th century an 'open-work stone screen' apparently existed,<sup>97</sup> of which no architectural trace remains.

The early-14th-century north arcade is of four bays with octagonal pillars having capitals and bases of the same form. The arches are of two chamfered orders, the outer being everywhere stopped above the abacus except on the north side of the easternmost pillar. The eastern arch has a modern corbel respond. The capitals and bases of all but the western pillar have been extensively restored in a dark-brown stone. The contemporary south arcade of four bays has a modern corbel carrying its east end; the eastern pair of the three octagonal pillars has modern capitals and bases. Above each angle of the western pillar the slightly undercut bell of the circular capital is flattened. Each arcade has an ancient western semi-octagonal respond with moulded capital and base. The clearesty contains four

square-headed windows; each is of two trefoiled ogee-headed lights with pierced spandrels and has a shallow rear-arch with an almost flat elliptical-head and slightly splayed jambs. Only a small part of the jambs and tracery is ancient. The nave roof is of four bays carried by brackets and wall-posts resting on corbels, all of which, except those at the east and west ends, are human or grotesque masks.

The 14th-century north aisle wall is plastered internally and, like the vestry, is covered externally with smooth stucco; a two-centred arch and door divides them. The easternmost window is of two pointed lights with a forked mullion and pierced spandrel in a two-centred head which, like the jambs and mullion, is chamfered. There is an internal splay and pointed segmental rear-arch with a restored chamfered head. A modern sandstone buttress of two offsets divides this from the second window, which has two trefoiled ogee-headed lights with pierced spandrels under a square head and is entirely modern. The north door has a two-centred head and is of two orders, each moulded with a swelled chamfer; its only ancient part is the segmental rear-arch. The north-west angle buttress is of two offsets; above the lowest portion of its simple double plinth, which is original and extends along the north and west walls of the aisle, a modern moulding of 14th-century form has been added on both these walls. The west wall has a much-restored two-light window like the easternmost. The modern lean-to roof of the aisle has cresting along its lower edge; about 1 ft. below, and separated from it by long ashlar blocks, is an ogee-moulded cornice, broken by square lead rainwater heads, of which one bears the date 1818. The roof is of four bays, divided by moulded principals, of which the easternmost appears to be of the 15th century; it is carried on the north side by plain corbels, two to each bay, and on the south by a modern wall-plate.

The south aisle is of coursed rubble and has a double plinth. In the east wall is a window of three cinquefoiled pointed lights under a four-centred head. The chamfered mullions are carried up vertically to the soffit; the spandrels of all three lights are pierced. The jambs are moulded with two chamfers. The window, of a yellow sandstone, externally shows extensive repairs; a very large block of stone is placed above and slightly north of the apex. The rear-arch follows the form of the window and is slightly splayed; there is no ledge, the wall below being recessed to receive an altar. The south-east angle buttress of two offsets is largely ancient and is bonded into the rubble wall by ashlar blocks. Near the south-east angle is a piscina having a trefoiled ogee head which, with the jambs, is chamfered, and a circular bowl and drain. Two holes have been bored in the east and one in the west jamb. The south wall is divided into four bays by buttresses which are entirely modern. The first (easternmost) bay has a two-centred window of two cinquefoiled elliptical-headed lights with cusped tracery in the head. The second window has two pointed lights and a pierced spandrel, the jambs and mullion being chamfered. Externally very little of the original soft red sandstone is left except in the head; the jambs show extensive modern repairs in brick and cement, but internally are mostly ancient. The plastered rear-arch has a two-centred chamfered head. The south door has a two-centred head, with two sunk-chamfered orders which are continuous in

<sup>95</sup> *Ex inf.* the Rev. B. J. W. Pedley.

<sup>96</sup> J. A. Cossins, MS. 'Notes on War-

wickshire Churches', i, 150, in Birmingham Reference Library.

<sup>97</sup> *Beauties of England and Wales*, xv (1814), 85.

the jambs. The timber porch is modern, possibly added at the same time as the two rainwater heads dated 1897. In the fourth bay is a restored window like that in the second. At the south-west angle are a pair of buttresses, of which that on the west wall is certainly ancient; the plinth is raised around it by 18 in. and continues on the west wall 6 in. higher than on the south. The west window is generally similar to that in the east wall of the south aisle, but with a more depressed head and solid spandrels; there is a plain hood-mould. The lean-to roof is of five bays, carried on the nave side by seven irregularly spaced corbels,<sup>98</sup> of which the sixth is a human mask, and on the south by short wall-posts and brackets. Most of it is modern, but the easternmost, second and fourth principals, both purlins of the fourth and the north purlin of the fifth bays, and the carved bosses of the same bays are of the 15th century.

The tower, of coursed ashlar, is divided externally into two stages by a string-course, and has a triple plinth, of which only the lowest moulding continues around the north-west and south-west angle buttresses. These buttresses are of two stages and die into the angles at string-course level. At the south-east angle is a thickening for a stair-vice; at the north-east angle a similar thickening which terminates at the level of the aisle roof has no apparent purpose except to act as a buttress. The upper stage has in each face a square-headed window of two square-headed lights with chamfered jambs and mullions, and louvre boarding. The west window is two-centred, of three pointed lights with mullions intersecting in the head; jambs and mullions are of modern stone. There is a restored external hood-mould, and its two-centred rear-arch has splayed jambs. Between it and the string-course is a square-headed window of two square-headed lights, with a short central mullion and below it a triangular panel with irregular piercing. Beneath the window, which is of a soft red sandstone, is an animal carved in the same material. Weathering has made it difficult to distinguish, but it is said to be a muzzled bear, the crest of the Barfoot family.<sup>99</sup> The stair-vice has externally a small square-headed opening. The square-headed internal doorway to the vice has chamfered jambs and head. The newel stair rises only as far as the ringing chamber; above that the floor of the bell-chamber is at the level of the external string-course. At the top of the second stage of the tower is a string-course, above which are battlements. There were formerly square pinnacles, apparently 17th-century, set diagonally at the angles.<sup>1</sup> The tower has a low pyramidal roof. The tower arch has poorly moulded imposts resting upon corbels and responds of half-hexagonal form with two hollow mouldings and high bases. The arch itself is of a single plain order; its apex is hidden by the organ, but appears to be semi-circular.

The font is modern.

On the north wall of the chancel is a large and distinguished monument to Sir Orlando Bridgeman (d. 1721).

At the east end of the north aisle is a chest dated 1662 and bearing the churchwarden's and maker's names.

At the west end of this aisle is a leaden casket for a heart-burial, discovered during the restoration of 1894, in a vault beneath the chancel. Four leaden inscription plates from coffins found in the same place are let into the panelling of the sanctuary.

There are five bells:<sup>2</sup> (1) of 1903, recast 1939;<sup>3</sup> (2) by Hugh Watts, 1624; (3) by Watts, 1640; (4) by Henry Bagley, 1670, recast 1903; (5) by John Martin, 1655.

The plate<sup>3</sup> consists of an undated chalice and paten of c. 1600, a chalice with cover, paten, and flagon of 1748, an alms-dish of 1842, and a wafer-box of 1944.

The registers begin in 1594,<sup>4</sup> and the churchwardens' accounts in 1806.

The church of *ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS*, Brownsover, consists of a chancel (19 ft. 6 in. by 13 ft. 3 in.) and nave (30 ft. by 24 ft. 9 in.).

The church was built in the early 13th century and its plan has not been materially altered since. At later dates in the same century the easternmost window of the south wall of the nave and the two-light windows with pierced spandrels were built. In the 14th century two lancets flanking the west door were inserted, and about a century later the east window. At various times after the Reformation seven brick buttresses and a west porch were added. The church suffered a drastic restoration, being almost entirely rebuilt in 1877 under Sir George Gilbert Scott.<sup>5</sup>

The chancel has a 15th-century east window of three trefoiled lights with chamfered jambs and mullions and pierced spandrels under a pseudo-four-centred head. There is a very slight splay to the jambs of the rear-arch, which has a chamfered head of the same form as the window. The wall is of small coursed rubble to a height of about 1 ft. 6 in. above the apex of the window above that the material is larger and modern. At a height of 3 ft. 6 in. is a narrow offset or chamfered plinth. The angle buttresses, of two offsets, and the wall-angles above them are of ashlar. The north wall is of similar masonry, heavily re-pointed, and has a late-13th-century window of two adjacent lancets coupled by a chamfered mullion. The rear-arch is built of small, roughly squared-up coursed rubble and has a pointed segmental head. Below the window is a small round-headed ambry, almost certainly modern, though designed to suggest an ancient form. At the west end of this wall is a rectangular opening (about 2 ft. 6 in. by 2 ft.) extending the width of the wall, with an iron grille in front and apparently bricked up at the back. Outside in the angle of chancel and nave is a small brick building housing the heating apparatus.

In the south wall is a window similar to that opposite in the north wall. Its external jambs are treated in 'long and short' fashion; there is a single quarry of painted glass in the west head. The rear-arch has a plain segmental-pointed head and splayed jambs, between which, below the ledge, the wall has been recessed in modern times to form a seat. Near the angle of the nave wall is a short, pointed window with chamfered jambs and head, which are formed of large blocks of red sandstone. Internally the wide-splayed jambs

<sup>98</sup> The irregularity of spacing gives no certain clue to any earlier roof construction.

<sup>99</sup> So identified in *Midland Counties Historical Collector*, p. 110; and so drawn, in detail, in the view of the church (c. 1820) in the Aylesford Collection.

<sup>1</sup> See the Aylesford Collection, and a

photograph, taken before the restoration, in Warw. Photo. Survey (B.R.L.).

<sup>2</sup> Tilley and Walters; *Church Bells of Warw.* Hugh Watts does not seem to have been paid the £2 for his bell until 1652, and three years later the inhabitants of Newton were still refusing to pay their share: *Warw. Co. Rect.* iii, 290, 304.

<sup>3</sup> *ex inf.* Rev. B. J. W. Pedley.

<sup>4</sup> The early volumes are deposited at Warwick.

<sup>5</sup> Hence much of the preceding history is inferred from J. A. Cossin's account of the church in 1873, in his 'Notes on Warwickshire Churches', i (B.R.L.).

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have a very shallow segmental-pointed rear-arch. The roof, of two bays, is modern, carried on wall-posts and wooden corbels, and has a cambered tie-beam, curved braces beneath a collar-beam, a king-post, and ridge. There are curved windbraces to the purlins.

The two-centred chancel arch, of the early 14th century, is of two chamfered orders, the outer continuous in the jambs, the inner terminating on capitals and responds. A half-round moulding extends across the chamfer of the outer order just above the point where it is stopped. The capitals and bases of the responds are moulded.

The east wall of the nave, of coursed rubble and containing no openings on its north side, is about 1 ft. 3 in. thicker below the level of the chancel eaves than above. At the north-east angle on the north wall is a buttress of one offset, the restored plinth of which is continued the full length of that wall. In the east half is a two-centred window of two pointed lights with a pierced spandrel, and a modern hood-mould with head-stops. Internally the jambs are splayed, and the restored rear-arch has a chamfered, pointed, segmental head. In the west half is a similar window, also extensively repaired, which has ancient head-stops to the hood-mould, the east a bearded man, the west a woman. There is a buttress at the north-west angle and another between the windows.

The south side of the east wall near the angle of the chancel has a small pointed window with chamfered jambs and head of sandstone. South of it marks in the plaster seem to indicate the position of a former rood-loft staircase; a piscina to a rood-loft altar was discovered in 1877.<sup>6</sup> The east wall of the nave is of coursed rubble in its lower part, but immediately below the projection the coursing becomes irregular. The south wall is of coursed rubble; its plinth is largely ancient. It has a small shallow piscina with a two-centred head and chamfered jambs; there is a semicircular projection for the bowl and the drain is intact. There are buttresses at the east end, at the south-west angle, and between the windows. The eastern window has three pointed lights with pierced spandrels and chamfered jambs and mullions under a two-centred head. Sufficient of the original stone remains in the heads of the lights to prove their form ancient, otherwise it is restored. The splayed rear-arch has a plain pointed head and is almost entirely restored. The other window is similar to those in the north wall. It has a hood-mould, but only its jambs are ancient. Prior to the restoration there was a window of two coupled square-headed lights here.<sup>7</sup>

The west wall has a thickening similar to that on the east, but of slighter projection, about 5 in. The plinth is the same height as on the north wall, and about 1 ft. higher than that of the south wall. Between modern windows similar to those on the north side is a doorway with a two-centred head and head-stopped hood-mould; its jambs have a three-quarter-round moulding flanked by a hollow. The restored rear-arch has a chamfered segmental head. Before the restoration the door was flanked by trefoiled lancets.<sup>8</sup> Above each window there is at the base of the gable a much-restored or modern round-headed window. The roof is modern.

The 13th-century font has a small tub bowl with a recessed concave moulding around it, a tall band stem, and a moulded base.

The present screen in front of the chancel arch is

made up of work of at least two periods, with modern additions. There is one 15th-century bay on each side, connected by a modern top rail and open tracery forming a head over the central opening. Each bay rests on a post-medieval carved panel. Below the two offsets the standards preserve the same section throughout—save that the lower part is slotted for tracery—viz. a fillet flanked by a cyma and a hollow chamfer; above, the fillet is changed to a moulding of triangular section rising from the top offset. Below the middle rail, which is moulded on each side with an ogee above and a hollow beneath, each bay is divided into two trefoiled pointed lights with pierced spandrels; the mullion is moulded with a bead flanked by hollows. The opening above the middle rail has a traceried head formed by an ogee beneath a pointed arch, their apexes being joined by a mullion. Each half of the opening thus divided has at the side a two-centred arch of two cinquefoiled lights with foliated cusps and a quatrefoiled spandrel. Beneath the ogee are three round arches of tracery each subdivided into two pointed arches, all open at the base and terminating in rosettes. The top side of the ogee has floral crockets; the blind spandrels of the main arch are carved with a sunk trefoil, with a rosette in the centre. The standards have moulded caps, upon each of which is a figure. The two figures of each bay are alike, but are difficult to identify. One is bearded, with a long outer garment buttoned across the chest, the left arm outstretched and the right gathering up the folds of the garment; the other has no beard, the robe is gathered at the neck, and the gestures of the arms are reversed. The original sill beam has disappeared, and each bay rests on a rectangular panel which has its raised jambs and head richly carved with foliage. At the corners are grotesque masks. The panel is subdivided into six squares, each containing within a circle a geometrical or diaper pattern.

Against the southern part of the east wall of the nave stands another piece of screenwork, consisting of a large panel flanked on each side by two smaller panels, all filled with blind tracery. The central portion contains a large ogee arch which has a circle in its head. The circle is filled with cusped curved tracery and has a small quatrefoiled circle at its centre; it is given the appearance of resting on four multifoiled pointed arches. Above the ogee head on each side are five narrow panels with trefoiled pointed heads; superimposed on them, and rising from the ogee head, are two large crockets. Each side panel contains a large ogee subdivided into three pointed arches which have quatrefoil cusping in the spandrels and are in turn subdivided into two trefoil-headed panels with cusped net tracery in the head. The apex of the ogee cuts into a round arch; between them, and in the spandrels of the latter, is luxuriant foliage carving. The cresting is of Tudor-flower type, the flat formalized flowers being alternately large and small. Behind the former runs a string which has a rosette above each small flower.

At the west end of the south aisle is a bench with carved ends and square bolection-moulded panels in the back, apparently of the late 17th century.

The organ has inscriptions in German on the stops; the case, of Restoration date, came from the choir organ of St. John's College, Cambridge, about 1868, and was probably built by Thamar.<sup>9</sup> It is richly ornamented

<sup>6</sup> *Cos-ins*, op. cit.

<sup>7</sup> Aylesford Collection; *Cosins*, op. cit.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.* p. 155.

<sup>9</sup> Rev. A. Freeman, *English Organ Cases*, 37, note.

with cherubim and has a large central panel of the Nativity.

There was formerly one bell by Hugh Watts (1636);<sup>10</sup> the present bell, hanging outside on the west wall, is modern.<sup>11</sup>

The plate consists of a chalice, c. 1600, a flagon, c. 1750, and a paten which is probably of 18th-century date.<sup>12</sup>

The registers begin in 1593,<sup>13</sup> but are missing for the years 1643–54.

The church of Clifton, 'which formerly was a prebend of the castle of Leicester',<sup>14</sup> was given to the Abbey of Leicester by Ernaln (I) de Bois, with the chapels of Rugby and Brownsover (Wavre), the grant being confirmed by Henry II<sup>15</sup> and later by Ernaln (IV) de Bois.<sup>16</sup> It was appropriated to the abbey by Geoffrey Muschamp, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield (1198–1214), and was valued in 1291 at £16 13s. 4d.<sup>17</sup> It continued in the possession of the canons until the Dissolution. In 1535 the rectory was farmed at £8 11s. 10d.,<sup>18</sup> the vicarage being rated at £8 1s. 8d.<sup>19</sup> In 1553 the advowson of the vicarage, with the rectorial manse and glebe, and the tithes and tithe barn then in the tenure of William Leigh and Elizabeth his wife, were granted to Thomas Cecill and John Bell, of London.<sup>20</sup> By 1576 the advowson was in the hands of Thomas Shuckborough and Charles Waterhouse, who presented to the living<sup>21</sup> and in 1590, with Charles's wife Ursula,<sup>22</sup> conveyed the rectory and advowson to Samuel Bevercote and Thomas Clarke.<sup>23</sup> In 1598 William Dilke presented,<sup>24</sup> and in 1605 he conveyed the rectory and advowson to Edward Boughton,<sup>25</sup> who sold them to Sir Robert Whitney in 1614.<sup>26</sup> A presentation was made in 1632 by Mary Moore,<sup>27</sup> whose interest is not clear, but in 1639 Robert Whitney presented<sup>28</sup> and from that time the advowson remained attached to the manor of Clifton. It was not, however, sold with that manor but remained in the hands of the Bridgemans, earls of Bradford, until c. 1900, when it was bought by Boughton-Leigh of Brownsover,<sup>29</sup> with which manor it is now held.

As mentioned above, Brownsover was from the 12th century onwards a chapelry of Clifton. In 1221 Maud Balastre (or Banastre) remitted to the Abbot of Leicester her claim, in right of dower, to the advowson of the church of Brownsover,<sup>30</sup> but on what this claim was based is not recorded.

There was also a chapel at Newton, the rectory, or tithes, of which were valued at £7 6s. 8d. in 1535.<sup>31</sup> These tithes were granted in 1553 to Thomas Farneham,<sup>32</sup> and in 1616 the site of the chapel of Newton was leased for 21 years to Ralph Smythe.<sup>33</sup>

The Anthony S. Benn Charity. By *CHARITIES* A Declaration of Trust dated 5 June 1895 the sum of £200 was settled upon trust, the dividends to be paid to the vicar and churchwardens of Clifton-upon-Dunsmore for coals and blankets to be distributed among the poor inhabitants of the parish as near Christmas as conveniently might

be in every year. The annual income amounts to £5 1s.

George Charles Benn by will dated 31 August 1894 bequeathed to the vicar and churchwardens £200, the income to be given away annually, in coals or blankets, to deserving poor people of the parish about Christmas time. The annual income amounts to £4 15s.

Maria Benn by will dated 8 February 1873 bequeathed £100 to the vicar and churchwardens, the income to be applied in the purchase of flannel blankets, bread, or coals, to be distributed annually at Christmas amongst the deserving and poor inhabitants of the parish of Clifton-upon-Dunsmore proper but not the hamlets belonging thereto. The annual income of the charity amounts to £2 10s.

Mary Christian Benn by will dated 5 November 1863 bequeathed to the vicar and churchwardens £500, the income thereof to be spent on bread, coals, or blankets, to be distributed annually about Christmas Day among the deserving and poor inhabitants of the parish. The annual income amounts to £13 9s. 4d.

Caldecott's Almshouses (sometimes also known as Marriott's Almshouses). By an Indenture dated 16 March 1860 Charles Marriott Caldecott conveyed to trustees a piece of land forming part of the glebe of the parish of Clifton-upon-Dunsmore together with the three cottages thereon, upon trust to permit the premises to be occupied rent free by such three poor, honest, and industrious widows, being inhabitants of the parish and regular attendants at church, nominated by the minister and churchwardens. By a Scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 25 July 1930 it was provided that if a vacancy occurs among the almspeople and there is no duly qualified widow who is suitable to fill the vacancy, the trustees may appoint to the vacancy a suitable person who is a spinster and not a widow.

Sophia Catherine Marriott by her will proved on 16 February 1860 bequeathed to the vicar and churchwardens £160, the income to be applied in keeping the three cottages devised by Charles Marriott Caldecott in repair and insuring against damage by fire, and then to pay the residue between one or more poor widows, regular attendants at church and inhabitants of Clifton or Newton, in such proportions as they may think fit. The annual income of the charity amounts to £4 0s. 4d.

Town Lands. By Articles of Agreement dated 1 May 1648 it was covenanted and agreed that the Meadow called Morton Myres and so much land adjoining the meadow on the north side as would make up in all to 20 acres should be set by the churchwardens and constables to such of the poor inhabitants of Clifton as had no other land assigned to them, and that the yearly rent should be received half by the churchwardens and half by the constables and employed by them in defraying charges incident to their offices. The charity is now regulated by schemes of the Charity Commissioners dated 23 November 1866 and 23 November 1883, which appoint a body of trustees to administer the charity and provide that one moiety of the income of the charity shall be applied primarily towards defraying

<sup>10</sup> Tilley and Walters, *Church Bells of Warwick*.

<sup>11</sup> *ex inf.* Rev. B. J. W. Pedley.

<sup>12</sup> The old volumes have been deposited at Warwick.

<sup>13</sup> Nichols, *Leics.* i, app. 80.

<sup>14</sup> *Cal. Chart.* R. iii, 380.

<sup>15</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1317–21, p. 226.

<sup>16</sup> *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 242.

<sup>17</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 145.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.* iii, 63.

<sup>19</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1553, p. 130.

<sup>20</sup> Dugd. 11.

<sup>21</sup> She was daughter of Sir Euseby Andrews: Bridges, *Northants.* i, 39.

<sup>22</sup> Feet of F. Warws. Hil. 32 Eliz.

<sup>23</sup> Dugd. 11.

<sup>24</sup> Feet of F. Warws. Trin. 3 Jas. I.

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid.* Trin. 12 Jas. I.

<sup>26</sup> *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.).

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>28</sup> *Clergy List.*

<sup>29</sup> *Roll. of Justices in Eyre in . . . Warwick.* (Selden Soc.), 518.

<sup>30</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 145.

<sup>31</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1553, p. 306.

<sup>32</sup> L.R. Enr. Grants. 140, fol. 115.



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expenses connected with the parish church and usually covered by a church rate, and towards the maintenance of the church and its appurtenances; and that the other moiety of the income shall be applied primarily to the payment of the charges properly incident to the office of constable, and subject thereto to the benefit of the most deserving and necessitous resident inhabitants of the Township of Clifton-upon-Dunsmore. The annual income of the charity amounts to £43 approximately.

Townsend Memorial Hall. By an Indenture dated 16 January 1922 the tenement known as the Village Hall, together with the caretaker's cottage adjoining, was conveyed to the parish council upon trust that the premises shall be known as the Townsend Memorial Hall and shall form a Village Hall for the benefit of the inhabitants of the parish.

Abraham Turner. It is stated in the printed Parliamentary Reports of the Former Commissioners Inquiring Concerning Charities dated 1834 that he gave £21 to the poor of Brownsover, the interest being applied by the churchwardens in the purchase of coals. The annual income of the charity amounts to £1 2s. 8d. which is distributed to the poor in coals.

Elizabeth Jeraway by will dated 8 March 1836 gave

to the officiating minister of Clifton-on-Dunsmore and the churchwardens and overseers of Clifton and Newton £100, to apply the interest in the distribution of bread and coals amongst the poor of Newton upon the morning of Christmas Day for ever. The charity is now regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 20 October 1916 which appoints a body of trustees and directs that the yearly income of the charity shall be so applied. The yearly income amounts to £2 13s. 8d.

Town Lands. By the Award made in pursuance of an Act for inclosing the common fields of Newton dated 18 January 1757 a piece of ground in the Moor-field containing 2 a. 1 r. was allotted to the constable and churchwardens of Newton to the intent that the allotment and the rents thereof should be employed in the first place in making the hedges, ditches, mounds, and fences and subject thereto to such uses and in such manner as the major part of the landholders and occupiers of lands in Newton should on Easter Monday yearly direct and appoint. By a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 20 October 1916 a body of trustees were appointed to administer the charity. The land is let to various tenants at the total yearly rent of £1 18s.

## COMBE FIELDS

Acreeage: 3,720 (4,310 since 1932).<sup>1</sup>

Population: 1911, 156; 1921, 168; 1931, 192.

This district, originally the parish of Smite and later extraparochial, is now a civil parish containing no village, about 5 miles east of Coventry. The north-western boundary is formed by the Withybrook, and the eastern by a small stream running south into the Smite Brook, which itself, running westward, forms the southern boundary as far as Priest's Bridge and then continues across the parish. A mile farther west, near the remains of the monastic fish-ponds, it is dammed to form the Pool (90 acres) in the grounds of Combe Abbey. The original courses of the brook and of a small stream coming from the south to join it, though now covered by the Pool, are shown on the 6-inch O.S. map (1889) as the boundaries of the south-west corner of the parish.

The ground rises gently from 240 ft. in the south-west to 350 ft. in the north and east; it is for the most part open, with one extensive block of woodland at High Wood, just east of the Abbey Park. A road from Coventry to Brinklow skirts the southern edge of the Park, and another from Brinklow to Anstey runs north-westwards, parallel to the Oxford Canal<sup>2</sup> and the Trent Valley section of the old L.N.W. Railway (later L.M.S.R.). There are brick-works and disused clay and gravel-pits. Part of the parish is now occupied by the Anstey aerodrome.

A 'tumulus' marked on the O.S. maps, north of the Abbey, is of doubtful antiquity. Due east of it is Peter Hall, a farmhouse largely of 18th-century red brick but incorporating the remains of the church of Smite, consisting of chancel, nave, and south aisle, built of red

sandstone ashlar, which survives to first-floor level and in places up to the eaves. At the east end there are buttresses to the angles, in two weathered stages, and below the gable is the hood-mould of a destroyed square-headed window. On the north side there is a late-13th-century pointed, roll-moulded doorway. After the Dissolution, when the estates of Combe Abbey were granted to Mary, Duchess of Richmond, she leased a messuage adjoining Peterchurch and a pond called Peterpole to William Rainsford.<sup>3</sup>

Combe Abbey occupies the site and includes a few remains of the Cistercian abbey. Towards the end of the 16th century John (afterwards Lord) Harington built a house incorporating three sides of the 15th-century cloister—the south side had been destroyed with the church. The next alteration seems to have been in 1667, when Isaac Gibson built a wing projecting westwards from the south end of the west wing.<sup>4</sup> Gibson was presumably the tenant of Lord Craven; he was knighted in 1674 and was described then and as late as January 1680<sup>5</sup> as of Combe Abbey but must have moved shortly afterwards to Worcester, where he was living in 1682 and in 1700.<sup>6</sup> In 1680 Lord Craven put in hand the enlargement and partial rebuilding of the house, his agent being his nephew Sir William Craven.<sup>7</sup> Part of the old building was said to be 'very rotten and leaning'. The existing west wing was built from the designs of Capt. William Winde,<sup>8</sup> the mason in charge being Jonathan Willcox, the carpenter William Coules, and the very fine plasterwork of the interior by Edward Gouge. In 1861–4 the east wing was pulled down and replaced by a block designed by W. E. Nesfield in a sort of French gothic style; this has

<sup>1</sup> By the Warwickshire Review Order of 1932 parts of the parishes of Binley, Walsgrave, and Wyken were added to it.

<sup>2</sup> The earlier devious course of the canal can be traced in the north of the parish by embankments and ditches, now mostly dry. Other earthworks near by, south-east of Mobbs Wood, mark the site of Upper Smite.

<sup>3</sup> L. and P. Hen. VIII, xxi (1), p. 776; Cal. Pat. 1547–8, p. 255.

<sup>4</sup> Gough MSS. (Bod.), Warwick i.

<sup>5</sup> Warw. Co. Recs. vii, p. lxxv.

<sup>6</sup> Le Neve's *Peds. of Knights* (Harl. Soc.), 295; *Visita. of Warw.* 1682–3 (Harl. Soc.), 58.

<sup>7</sup> In the *Bodleian* is a volume of letters from Sir William to Capt. Winde (Gough

MSS. Warwick i); and also a number of plans, elevations, and drawings of details (Gough Drawings, a. 2, fol. 70–81). Some of these date from 1678, when presumably the alterations were already planned.

<sup>8</sup> He is called Wynne in the *Country Life* account of the house, and under Hampstead Marshall (which he built for Lord Craven) in *P.C.H. Berks.* iv, 179.





CLIFTON-ON-DUNSMORE: BROWNISOVER CHAPEL, c. 1820



COMBE ABBEY: REMAINS OF THE CHAPTER HOUSE



CUBBINGTOWN CHURCH: SOUTH ARCADE

*W. A. Clark, F.R.T.S., photo.*

recently been pulled down, with the exception of parts of the ground-floor arches.

The only fragment of the original 12th-century structure surviving is the entrance to the chapter-house. This, which was in the east walk of the cloister, was spared by Nesfield and in the destruction of his work. It is built of red sandstone ashlar and has a round-headed doorway of four orders, the outer decorated with shallow cheverons. The orders rise from three attached and one detached shafts, all with floriated capitals, moulded bases, and moulded imposths which are carried on to serve flanking round-headed open windows. Each of these is of two orders, the outer decorated with cheverons, and contains, below a solid masonry tympanum, two round-headed arches supported on short shafts, five on each side and four in the centre, with carved capitals and moulded bases.

The two remaining sides of the cloister court keep most of their late-16th-century features. The north side is of three stories; on the ground floor are three bays of the cloister with four-light windows; above these project on brackets four-light transomed windows with gable heads, and on the top floor low four-light windows. The west side is similar, but of only two stories and of seven bays. The south end of this range ends in three ogee-shaped gables, containing a scallop-shell ornament and the three-light mullioned windows of the attics. On the first floor in the centre is an original seven-light mullioned window, with three transoms. The two-light transomed windows farther west in this front belong to the Gibson building of 1667. This forms a block projecting at the south end of the west front and terminating in three equal gables, with contemporary mullioned windows.

The west, and principal, front, overlooking the terrace and formal garden, is built of light-coloured stone ashlar, two stories in height, with dormer windows to the attics in the low-pitched slated roof. At the north end a wing projects to the depth of one bay. Between this and the projecting Gibson wing is the Palladian front, surmounted by a central pediment, containing the Craven coat surrounded by swags, and a modillion cornice. There are seven windows to each story, all with moulded architraves; the centre window on the ground floor has a segmental pediment and the one above it a flat moulded hood, supported on scroll brackets. The leaden rainwater heads and pipes bear the Craven coat and a C surmounted by a coronet. The north front and its return have been rendered with cement and present no features of interest.

The interior has been somewhat modernized, but several rooms retain their original decoration.<sup>9</sup> The ball-room, or great dining-room, about 50 ft. long, has a ceiling with fine and elaborate plaster ornament; the walls are panelled and the architraves of the doors have pediments with the Craven monogram and in one instance the date 1684. The dining-room is panelled in tall bolection-moulded panels; a beam across the ceiling, supported on twin Ionic columns, has a panelled soffit with bead and reel decoration. The library, which appears to have been the original kitchen, has been dismantled, its doors, covered with dummy book-

backs, being used for cupboards elsewhere. There is a fine contemporary staircase, some good chimney-pieces, and plasterwork.

The beautiful grounds were laid out by 'Capability' Brown, and the most attractive feature of Nesfield's work was the moat which he constructed on the south and east of the house and which is connected with the lake, of 90 acres, in the grounds. There are two lodge gates; the western, mid-18th-century, in the form of a Roman triumphal arch, the eastern in the gothic style of the early 19th century.

In the 11th century part of the district *MANOR* afterwards known as Combe Fields was occupied by the manor of *SMITE*. Comprising 6 hides, it had been held freely in the time of Edward the Confessor by Harding; after 1066 it was granted to Earl Aubrey, but by 1086 it was being managed for the King by Geoffrey Wirce, or de la Guerche.<sup>10</sup> In 1150 Richard de Camville founded a monastery of the Cistercian order, colonized from Waverley (Surrey),<sup>11</sup> granting to the latter 'all my land of Smithe which I hold of Roger de Mowbray by the service of one knight'.<sup>12</sup> Roger confirmed the grant,<sup>13</sup> as did also Robert, Earl of Leicester,<sup>14</sup> to whom the overlordship had come, who released the monks from military service; and Henry II;<sup>15</sup> and in 1290 the Abbot of Combe and his successors were granted free warren in their demesne lands.<sup>16</sup>

After the dissolution of the monastery its site and buildings were granted, together with the manor of Smithe, to Mary, Duchess of Richmond and Somerset in 1539 for life,<sup>17</sup> and in 1547 the reversion thereof was assigned to John, Earl of Warwick.<sup>18</sup> In 1539 the Duchess had leased, for terms of 60 and 40 years, various parts of the abbey estates to William Raynsford, to whom in 1545 a reversion for 21 years after the death of the duchess was granted for a yearly rent of £24 6s. 8d.<sup>19</sup> The Earl of Warwick, afterwards Duke of Northumberland, settled his reversion to the main portion of the estates on his son John, Lord Lisle, and Alice his wife in 1550. After Lord Lisle's death in 1554 his widow married Sir Edward Unton,<sup>20</sup> and they together granted the manors of Smithe and Combe to the king and queen in 1557.<sup>21</sup> In the same year the Duchess of Richmond died, and a 40-year lease of the monastic estates, less the portions she had leased to (Sir) William Raynsford, who now took up his 21-year reversion<sup>22</sup>, was granted for a yearly rent of £196 8s. 1d. to Robert Keylway.<sup>23</sup> This portion, including the site and buildings, was then in the hands of Sir William Wigston as subtenant. Keylway, who was Surveyor of the Court of Wards and Liveries, died in 1581, when his daughter and heiress Elizabeth was 30 and married to John Harington of Exton, Rutland.<sup>24</sup> He was created Baron Harington at the coronation of James I,<sup>25</sup> and between 1603 and 1608 had the guardianship of the Princess Elizabeth, afterwards Queen of Bohemia, at Combe Abbey.<sup>26</sup> He died in 1613 and his son the following year, leaving two sisters as coheirs, Lucy, wife of Edward, Earl of Bedford, who took two-thirds of the family estates, including Combe, and Frances, wife of Sir Robert Chichester.<sup>27</sup> In 1616 the lordship

<sup>9</sup> Many illustrations of the rooms and details of the furnishings as they were in 1909 are given in *Country Life*, xvi, 794-805, 840-8. <sup>10</sup> *F.C.H. Warw.* i, 309.

<sup>11</sup> *Ann. Mon.* (Rolls Ser.), ii, 283.

<sup>12</sup> Cott. MS. Vitell. A.I, fol. 37.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid. 37v.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid. <sup>15</sup> *Cal. Chart. R.* i, 351.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid. ii, 343.

<sup>17</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII.* xiv (1), p. 595.

<sup>18</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1547-8, pp. 255-6.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid. 1555-7, p. 309.

<sup>20</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), xcvi, 45.

<sup>21</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Trin. 4 & 5 Ph.

& M.

<sup>22</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1555-7, p. 310; 1557-8,

p. 102.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid.

<sup>24</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), xciii, 50.

<sup>25</sup> Pat. 1 Jas. I, pt. 14.

<sup>26</sup> Dugd. 225; G.E.C., *Complete Peerage*

(2nd ed.), vi, 321.

<sup>27</sup> Dugd. 225.

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of the manors of Combe and Smite was granted to George Villiers,<sup>28</sup> from whom the Countess of Bedford held as tenant; with her husband and others she granted sub-leases of the manors to Ralph Freeman and others in 1620<sup>29</sup> and to William Littleton and George Purefoy in the following year.<sup>30</sup> In 1622 the Earl and Countess of Bedford and others sold their interest in the manors of Combe and Smite, and the lands of the former monastery, to Elizabeth widow of Sir William Craven, Lord Mayor of London in 1610-11, for £36,000.<sup>31</sup> In 1624 she settled the estate on her sons William, then aged 18, John, and Thomas.<sup>32</sup> William, who became Baron Craven of Hampstead Marshall (Berks.) in 1627, obtained licence in 1634 to inclose 650 acres of the demesne land to make a park, and to have free warren therein.<sup>33</sup> From this time the Craven family are styled lords of the manors of Combe and Smite. William, then Earl of Craven, before his death in 1697 appar-



Craven. Argent a fesse between six crosslets fitchy gules.

ently relinquished control of the Combe Abbey property to his cousin, Sir William Craven, described as 'of Combe Abbey', who died in 1695.<sup>34</sup> The son of this latter, another William, 2nd Baron Craven by special remainder,<sup>35</sup> died in 1711 and his son was lord in 1730.<sup>36</sup> The Craven family were still in possession of Combe Abbey until 1923, when it was sold by the 11th Baron and 5th Earl (of the creation of 1801) to John George Gray, esq.,<sup>37</sup> the present owner.

The church of Smite was evidently given by Roger de Mowbray to Samson d'Aubigny, who was a clerk of Roger de Clinton, Bishop of Chester (1129-48), as Samson gave the church with its chapel of Brinklow to Kenilworth Priory, his gift being confirmed by Roger de Mowbray<sup>38</sup> and later by Henry II.<sup>39</sup> When the abbey of Combe was founded the monks must have acquired the church from Kenilworth and no more is heard of it. The fabric was still standing, with a cemetery attached to it,<sup>40</sup> having presumably been used as a chapel served by the monks, until the dissolution of the abbey, after which it was allowed to decay and was converted into the present house of Peter Hall.

## CUBBINGTON

Acreage: 2,112.

Population: 1911, 1,144; 1921, 1,170; 1931, 1,264.

Cubbington is a parish and large village almost in the centre of the county, 2½ miles north-east of Leamington Spa, with Stoneleigh on the north and Weston-under-Wetherley on the east. The village is fairly compact, and central in the parish, in a shallow valley on a stream tributary to the Leam, which forms the boundary with Offchurch on the south-east. The responsibility for the repair of Offchurch Bridge was shared with that parish, and gave rise to some dispute in 1661-4, when it was in bad repair and swept away in a flood.<sup>1</sup> The road from Leamington to Rugby crosses the parish, and the village is mainly built along a loop from this road, a minor one also leading northwards towards Stoneleigh and Baginton. The road running north-east across the parish, by Cubbington Heath Farm, is Leicester Lane,<sup>2</sup> making connexion between Warwick and Leicester via Wolston and the Fosse Way. At right angles to this road, and skirting the west of the village, is the Welsh Road, which enters Cubbington by Offchurch Bridge on its way towards Birmingham and the north-west.

The height of the ground varies from about 325 ft. on the east and west boundaries of the parish to less than 200 ft. by the Leam.

1,085 acres were inclosed by private Act of Parliament in 1767.<sup>3</sup>

Unlike most rural parishes, Cubbington has exhibited an almost continuous increase in population from 1801 to the present day, and is one of the few in Warwickshire outside the industrial districts to have more than 1,000 inhabitants. Property has always been much

divided, which may be partly the cause; Cubbington is in fact a typical 'open' village.

During the Civil War the inhabitants of Cubbington petitioned that no more troops might be quartered on them owing to the scarcity of provisions.<sup>4</sup>

The church stands on rising ground to the north of the open space where the roads intersect, round which the old village is grouped. On the corner west of the south gate of the churchyard is the Manor House, an 18th-century building of red brick with stone quoins and stone-coped gables. On the opposite corner to the south is a large L-shaped house, of which the east limb and the east gable of the main front, facing onto the road from Offchurch, are of 16th-century timber-framing in square panels with brick nogging. The main front and an extension westwards are of ashlar with windows framed in a simple moulding but without mullions, perhaps of the end of the 17th century.

On the Offchurch road are several picturesque cottages of brick and stone, some with thatched roofs, but mostly not earlier than the 18th century. Other cottages on the road westwards, some of which are timber-framed, seem to be of similar date, or only slightly earlier. The road into Leamington is lined with modern houses, constituting New Cubbington.

Two incumbents of Cubbington have attained some eminence; John Old (*d.* 1545-55), a Protestant religious writer,<sup>5</sup> vicar 1548-54, and George Leigh Cooke (1780?-1853), Sedleian Professor of Natural Philosophy at Oxford,<sup>6</sup> vicar from 1824 to his death. Joseph Russell (1760-1846), the agriculturist, was a tenant farmer here from about 1780 to 1820. He wrote several books on agriculture and invented a clover-head-gathering machine.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>28</sup> Pat. 14 Jas. I, pt. 26; *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1611-18, p. 405.

<sup>29</sup> Feet of F. Div. Cos. Hil. 18 Jas. I.

<sup>30</sup> *Ibid.* Div. Cos. Trin. 19 Jas. I.

<sup>31</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Hil. 20 Jas. I;

*Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1619-23, p. 424.

<sup>32</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), ccccxxiv.

<sup>33</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>34</sup> Pat. 10 Chas. I, pt. 34.

<sup>35</sup> G.E.C., *Complete Peerage*, 2nd ed. iii, 502; *Torks. Archeol. J.* xiv, 448; Wills P.C.C. Pyne, 71. Sir William was great-grandson of the earl's uncle.

<sup>36</sup> G.E.C., *Complete Peerage*, 2nd ed. iii, 501-2.

<sup>37</sup> *Ibid.* <sup>38</sup> Dugd. 226.

<sup>39</sup> *Infm. Vicar of Binley.*

<sup>40</sup> *Harl. MS.* 3650, fols. 28, 31.

<sup>41</sup> *Cal. Chart. R.* iii, 277.

<sup>42</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1557-8, p. 102.

<sup>43</sup> See *Warw. Co. Records*, iv, 137, 150, 248, 274; v, p. lii.

<sup>44</sup> It occurs as 'Leycestrewye' in the 14th century: *Place-Names of Warw.* 8.

<sup>45</sup> Slater, *Engl. Peasantry and Encl.* 302.

<sup>46</sup> *MSS. Comm. Appx.* to 4th Rep.

<sup>47</sup> *Ibid.*



Among place-names found in early documents are Russchemfurlong,<sup>8</sup> Sorte Merks,<sup>9</sup> Brithmundsich,<sup>10</sup> and Follwellesty.<sup>11</sup>

A windmill in Cubbington is mentioned in 1355, when the Prior of Kenilworth claimed that the Abbot of Stoneleigh should pay 4s. in lieu of the tithes thereupon,<sup>12</sup> but it does not appear to be mentioned in later records.

In 1086 CUBBINGTON was assessed *MANORS* at 10 hides, held in three parts: 3 hides by Coventry cathedral priory,<sup>13</sup> 3 by the Count of Meulan, with Boscher at sub-tenant (these had been held freely by Lewin and Chetelbern in the time of Edward the Confessor),<sup>14</sup> and 5 by Roger de Ivri, which Turbern had held freely before 1066. This last holding was stated (*ut dicitur*) to be held of the king, but it is also described as being of the fee of the Bishop of Bayeux.<sup>15</sup>

The Coventry portion was confirmed to the priory by Pope Honorius III in 1221,<sup>16</sup> and was reckoned as half a knight's fee, its tenants being the Prior of Kenilworth in 1236,<sup>17</sup> and in 1242-3 Henry de Cobinton.<sup>18</sup> In 1330<sup>19</sup> and 1334<sup>20</sup> William de Passenham held property in Cubbington of Coventry priory, worth 33s. 8d., which he received licence to alienate in mortmain to the priory. The total annual value of the Coventry holding in 1535 was £3 2s.<sup>21</sup> In 1550 it was granted to Sir Ralph Sadler, Master of the Great Wardrobe, and Laurence Wennington, and to the heirs of the former.<sup>22</sup>

Henry II enfeoffed Boscher, presumably a descendant of the Count of Meulan's tenant, of 4½ virgates of land in Cubbington, most of which in 1251-2 was let out among various sub-tenants,<sup>23</sup> and in the reign of Richard I his son Henry Boscher granted to the Abbey of Stoneleigh lands amounting to a hide and three-quarters of a virgate, held by him or by sub-tenants.<sup>24</sup> Numerous other grants of land and tenements in Cubbington were made to Stoneleigh Abbey during the Middle Ages,<sup>25</sup> and in 1284 the abbot and convent were granted free warren in their demesne lands in Cubbington and elsewhere.<sup>26</sup> The total value of the Stoneleigh holdings in Cubbington in 1535 was £11 4s. 6d.,<sup>27</sup> in 1546 they were granted to Edward Watson of Rockingham (Northants.) and Henry Herdson, skinner, of London,<sup>28</sup> who later in the same year obtained licence to alienate them to Richard Fawkenor.<sup>29</sup> The latter died seised of the property in 1558.<sup>30</sup>

Fawkenor's daughter and heiress Alice, aged 10 at her father's death, married Benedict Shuckburgh, who was in possession of CUBBINGTON GRANGE in 1564.<sup>31</sup> In 1572 he and his wife made a settlement of this manor,<sup>32</sup> which in 1587 was settled on his daughter Elizabeth, at her marriage with Thomas Greswold of Solihull. The last named died before Benedict Shuckburgh or his widow (afterwards Alice Aleworth), who died in 1617 and 1634 respectively, and his widow

Elizabeth (Shuckburgh) was at her mother's death the wife of William Lisle of Evenley (Northants.),<sup>33</sup> who had livery of a third part of the manor in 1636.<sup>34</sup> Thomas Greswold's son Edward, though he also never actually possessed the manor, dying in 1633<sup>35</sup> before Alice Aleworth, settled its reversion on his wife Margaret, from whom it descended to his son John, who died in 1640 aged 21.<sup>36</sup> Edward Greswold seems to have been an eccentric; obeying literally the injunction not to have communication with sinners he shut himself up in his house with his family and lived a hermit's life. His house being broken into on a justice's order, two of his children were found dead and the rest of the family in great misery.<sup>37</sup> William Thomas also states that he was not the right heir, his elder brother being set aside, but the heirs of the latter coming into possession on the death of Edward and his eight children, all without issue. In 1646 Thomas Greswold, perhaps a brother of John, conveyed the manor to Humphrey Greswold, senior (a cousin), and Thomas Newman.<sup>38</sup> Joseph Greswold (died 1751) and his brother Thomas (died 1752) were 'much given to drinking ardent spirits' and in 1746 were deeply in debt and sold the reversion of the manor to their principal creditor, Thomas Prew. He died in 1747 and the manor came to his widow Bridget and after her death in 1763 to their two daughters, Elizabeth who married John Wise, and Bridget Prew. Elizabeth's grandson the Rev. John Wise died in 1830 and the estate passed to his children.<sup>39</sup>

About the middle of the 17th century a 'manor' in Cubbington was in the hands of the Murcott family. In 1640 Abraham Murcott, senior, Elizabeth his wife, and Abraham, junior, leased a manor to Edmund Palmer and William Murcott;<sup>40</sup> and in 1667 the younger Abraham and his wife Elizabeth, Andrew and Bridget Murcott, and Andrew Palmer leased it to Edward Saunders and John Smith.<sup>41</sup> Abraham Murcott was appointed high constable of Knightlow Hundred in 1666,<sup>42</sup> and was generally active in local government about this time, particularly as a viewer of repaired bridges and highways,<sup>43</sup> and in 1668 John Murcott was appointed treasurer of the county stock.<sup>44</sup> This family was among the principal landowners in Cubbington in 1850.<sup>45</sup>

In 1679 Thomas, 2nd Baron Leigh of Stoneleigh,



GRESWOLD. *Argent a fesse gules between two running greyhounds sable.*



MURCOTT. *Argent a fesse between three scutcheons gules.*

<sup>8</sup> *Cat. Anc. Deeds*, D. 318.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.* B. 1180. <sup>10</sup> *Ibid.* D. 607.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.* D. 600.

<sup>12</sup> De Banco R. 421, m. 219.

<sup>13</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* i, 305.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.* 316.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.* 327.

<sup>16</sup> *Cal. Papal L.* i, 84.

<sup>17</sup> *Bk. of Fees*, 583.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.* 955.

<sup>19</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1327-30, p. 502.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.* 1330-4, p. 400.

<sup>21</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 49.

<sup>22</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1549-51, pp. 272-3.

<sup>23</sup> *Bk. of Fees*, 1278.

<sup>24</sup> *Cal. Chart. R.* ii, 52.

<sup>25</sup> e.g. *Cat. Anc. Deeds*, B. 1180, 1204, D. 91, 318; *Cal. Pat.* 1281-92, p. 230; 1467-77, pp. 64, 411: see also below. In the 13th century Ralph de Bereford and Felice Boscher his wife gave land to Stoneleigh: *Harl. Chart.* 46A, 32.

<sup>26</sup> *Cal. Chart. R.* ii, 273.

<sup>27</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 67, 68.

<sup>28</sup> *L. & P. Hen. VIII*, cxxi (1), 1383 (89).

<sup>29</sup> *Ibid.* (2), 200 (50).

<sup>30</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cxv, 77.

<sup>31</sup> *Fine R.* 6 Eliz. no. 1.

<sup>32</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 14 & 15 Eliz.

<sup>33</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cccclxxiii,

50.

<sup>34</sup> *Fine R.* 13 Chas. I, pt. 1, no. 17.

<sup>35</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cccclxx, 24.

<sup>36</sup> *Ibid.* cccclxxi, 120.

<sup>37</sup> See *Dugd.* 300.

<sup>38</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 22 Chas. I.

<sup>39</sup> Add. MS. 29264, fol. 161.

<sup>40</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 16 Chas. I.

<sup>41</sup> *Ibid.* East. 19 Chas. II.

<sup>42</sup> *Warw. Co. Records*, v, 57.

<sup>43</sup> *Ibid.* iii, 68, 278; iv, 96, 104.

<sup>44</sup> *Ibid.* v, p. xxxviii, 94.

<sup>45</sup> White, *Directory Warw.* 602.



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conveyed a manor in Cubbington to various persons, among whom was Lewis Watson,<sup>46</sup> heir to Edward Watson, Lord Rockingham, whose sister Eleanor Lord Leigh married at this time as his second wife.<sup>47</sup> Lewis's second son George was concerned in a recovery of the manor in 1710.<sup>48</sup> The Leigh baronage became extinct in 1786, but Thomas Leigh, James Leigh Perrot, James Hervey Leigh, and others dealt with the manor in 1806,<sup>49</sup> as did the first and last, with Chandos Leigh (later 1st Baron Leigh of the second creation), in 1812.<sup>50</sup>

The overlordship of the portion of Cubbington held by Roger de Ivri came into the hands of the Hastings family, later Earls of Pembroke, of whom half a knight's fee was held in 1313<sup>51</sup> by Geoffrey Symeley, descendant of Ralph de Symeley who held half a virgate under Adam Boscher in 1251-2.<sup>52</sup> A similar half-fee was held of the Earl of Pembroke in 1375,<sup>53</sup> and in 1435 of Joan, widow of Sir William Beauchamp, to whom the Hastings lands passed.<sup>54</sup> Towards the end of the 15th century what may have been the Symeley holding also passed to Stoneleigh Abbey through the grant, in 1473-4, by John Hugford and Thomas Waldeyve of 5 messuages, 80 acres of land, 3 of meadow and 4 of pasture, held of Sir Edward Nevill, the then holder of the Hastings lands.<sup>55</sup> After this date it presumably descended with the rest of the Stoneleigh property mentioned above.

Another medieval manor in Cubbington, probably part of Roger de Ivri's Domesday holding, was held in 1273 by Walter de Ottesford, who in that year granted a life tenancy for 40s. annual rent to Henry de St. Maur or Seymour and Ermegarde his wife.<sup>56</sup> The reversion was to the heirs of Walter; but subsequently he quitclaimed his rights to Ermegarde by a deed which his kinsman and heir John de Waltham unsuccessfully challenged in 1332.<sup>57</sup> In 1276, Henry de Seymour having fled overseas, this manor was in the king's hands and was ordered to be held for the maintenance of Ermegarde his wife during the king's pleasure.<sup>58</sup> Soon afterwards she granted it to the Knights Templars, who in 1279 held 3 yardslands in demesne, and an inclosed grove, in Cubbington.<sup>59</sup> In the following year they concluded, through Robert de Turvill, Master of the Order in England, another agreement in favour of Ermegarde Seymour and her husband, for an annual rent of 4 marks silver, to be paid to them during her life,<sup>60</sup> and this payment was continued to her after the suppression of the Order in 1309.<sup>61</sup> Though documentary evidence of the grant seems to be lacking, the Templar property in Cubbington must have been transferred to the Knights Hospitallers, as they had the manor in 1332.<sup>62</sup> In 1561-2 John Fisher and Thomas Dabridgecourt obtained the manor of Cubbington which had been held by the Balsall preceptory of the Hospitallers.<sup>63</sup> This manor later passed to the Blissett family of Warwick, who in 1730 held courts leet and

baron in that part of Cubbington then known as St. John's Holt.<sup>64</sup> Mary Blissett was lady of this manor in 1715, and Joseph Blissett of Kenilworth lord from 1763 to 1777. At the time of the inclosure (1767) the manorial rights of Cubbington were disputed between Mr. Blissett and Mr. Wise and were settled, by the tossing of a halfpenny, in favour of Mr. Blissett.<sup>65</sup> His widow Susannah and son Charles were in possession in 1780 and 1782 respectively,<sup>66</sup> and Charles sold the estates for £3,800 to Dr. Crines of Kenilworth (whose son-in-law John Stanton sold them in 1820 to the Earl of Aylesford for £14,000) and the royalty of the manor, without any land, for £300 to John Whitwick Knightley of Offchurch, whose granddaughter held it in 1834.<sup>67</sup> She married the Earl of Aylesford, and after her death in 1911 the manor was acquired by Lady Manton, who held it in 1936.

Two virgates of land in Cubbington were granted in frank almon by Bertram de Malescote to the priory of Chalcombe (Northants.) in 1226.<sup>68</sup> This may have been the property in Warwickshire for which Stoneleigh Abbey paid 23s. 8d. yearly to Chalcombe.<sup>69</sup>

The parish church of *ST. MARY* consists of chancel, flanked by modern organ chamber and vestries, clearstoried nave with north and south aisles, south porch, and west tower.

The earliest part of the existing fabric is the south arcade of the nave, dating from the early 12th century. About the end of that century the tower, which is of exceptionally massive construction, was added at the west. The aisles may have been rebuilt during the 13th century, to which period the south doorway belongs, but the windows, so far as they are, or reproduce, original work, belong to the 14th century, when the chancel appears to have been rebuilt and probably lengthened. The chancel was repaired by Lord Leigh in 1780, and about 1830 considerable repairs were done to the south aisle, the flat roof shown in the drawing of c. 1820 in the Aylesford Collection being replaced by an extension of the nave roof, veiling the windows of the clearstory, and a pointed window being inserted in the south wall in place of a rectangular opening.<sup>70</sup> A very extensive restoration was carried out in 1885, when the north arcade was completely rebuilt, both aisles extended eastwards to form vestries, the porch rebuilt, and a gallery at the west end and the flat ceiling in the chancel, which in 1834 cut off the tracery of the east window,<sup>71</sup> removed. The nave and chancel roofs were renewed in 1899, and some repairs done to the exterior in 1932.<sup>72</sup> The external masonry of the medieval portions is of red sandstone ashlar, the extensions of the aisles are of a grey stone, as are the pinnacles, battlements, and three or four top courses of the tower; the wall of the south aisle has also been raised at some time, bringing the lean-to roof to a flatter pitch, with the use of grey stone.

<sup>46</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 31 Chas. II.  
<sup>47</sup> G.E.C. *Compl. Peerage* (2nd ed.), vii, 567.

<sup>48</sup> Recov. R. Hil. 9 Anne, ro. 149.

<sup>49</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 47 Geo. III.

<sup>50</sup> Recov. R. Mich. 53 Geo. III, ro. 51.

<sup>51</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, 412 (p. 234).

<sup>52</sup> *Bk. of Fees*, 1278.

<sup>53</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 49 Edw. III, pt. 1,

no. 70.

<sup>54</sup> *Ibid.* 14 Hen. VI, no. 35.

<sup>55</sup> *Dugd.* 300; *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 13 Edw.

IV, no. 68.

<sup>56</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xi), 908.

<sup>57</sup> *De Banco R.* 201, m. 242d.

<sup>58</sup> *Cal. Close*, 1272-9, p. 284.

<sup>59</sup> *Dugd.* 300.

<sup>60</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xi), 961. Cf.

*Anct. D.* (P.R.O.), A.S. 78.

<sup>61</sup> *Cole, Doct. Illustr. of Engl. Hist.*

145-6.

<sup>62</sup> *De Banco R.* 291, m. 242d. Cf.

*Early Chan. Proc.* 588, no. 36.

<sup>63</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1560-3, p. 327.

<sup>64</sup> *Dugd.* 300.

<sup>65</sup> *Add. MS.* 29264, fol. 161.

<sup>66</sup> *Gamekeepers' Deputations.*

<sup>67</sup> *Add. MS.* 29264, fol. 161.

<sup>68</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xi), 384. About

the same time Henry son of Simon de Cubinton quitclaimed to Stoneleigh Abbey his rights in 4 virgates which Bertram de Malescote held by knight service: *Harl. Chart.* 49 A. 53.

<sup>69</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Comt.), iii, 68.

<sup>70</sup> *Add. MS.* 29264, fol. 163, where

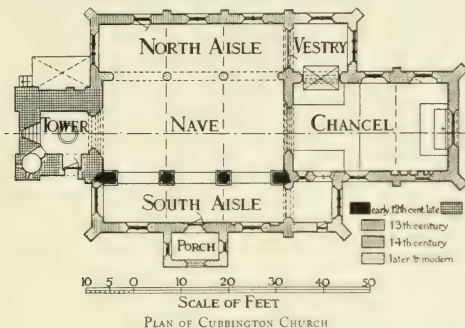
there is a view of the church drawn c. 1834.

<sup>71</sup> *Ibid.* 161.

<sup>72</sup> Kelly, *Directory of Warwick*, (1936).

In the chancel the modern east window is of three lights with reticulated tracery; the external hood-mould, with crude head-stops, may be 14th-century. The stonework of the windows on the north and south is entirely modern; they are each of two trefoiled lights with a quatrefoil in the head and may reproduce the original windows. The external hood-mould of the eastern of those in the south wall has an ancient head-stop. The priest's door is of modern stonework except for the lower half of the eastern jamb, the mouldings on which are copied and run continuously into the two-centred head; its western reveal is splayed but that on the east is not. It now opens into the extension of the south aisle by three steps, the floor of the chancel having been raised. West of the door is a low-side window of

The north aisle was partly rebuilt at the same time as the arcade, and the windows in the north wall, which are of two trefoiled lights under a flat head, are of modern stonework. The west window of this aisle has three lights and unusual tracery, mainly 14th century in style but combined with the 'perpendicular' lines of the 15th; it is exceptionally wide for its height and has a very heavy external hood-mould. The east window of the vestry is similar and was probably removed from the east end of the aisle when it was extended. The north door has plain chamfered jambs and two-centred head. In the north wall of the aisle, near the modern arch into the vestry, is a square aumbry recess. In the south aisle the windows are modern, but the door has elaborate mouldings of casements and fillets,



a single trefoiled light. On the north the modern archway into the vestry is occupied by the organ.

At the east end of the south wall is a rectangular aumbry, and a piscina with trefoil cusping under a chamfered ogee head. Farther west are three sedilia with chamfered jambs and ogee heads, uncusped. Opposite, in the north wall, is a tomb recess, or Easter sepulchre.

The chancel arch is two-centred, of two hollow-chamfered orders which are continuous without imposts. It has a hood-mould, with returned ends on the nave side.

In the nave the clearstory windows, of which there are two on each side, are of late-15th-century type, being of two slightly ogee-headed lights with blind tooling in the spandrels under almost flat heads. Those on the south may be original.

The south arcade, of the early 12th century, is of three semicircular arches of two plain orders, carried on circular shafts of 30 in. diameter and responds, of which the eastern is a half-column and the western about three-quarters of a column. The cushion capitals are irregularly carved with scalloping, and the square abacus is hollow-chamfered. The north arcade had probably been rebuilt in the 15th century, as in 1814 it was said to be of 'Gothic arches, not near so ancient' as the south;<sup>73</sup> it was completely rebuilt in 1885 and is now of three two-centred arches carried on two octagonal columns and responds to match.

typical of the 13th century, unbroken by capitals, under a plain hood-mould with head-stops. Near the original east end of the aisle is a recess, with a moulded two-centred head, divided by a mullion into two ogee lights with tracery above them, the eastern portion containing a piscina.

The south porch is modern. Built into its west wall is a small piece of stone carved with a design of two trefoiled heads and a quatrefoil, very similar to the design of the chancel windows; it may have been part of the base of a tomb-chest.

The tower is set slightly to the south of the axis of the body of the church; an irregularity which has been exaggerated by the fact that the north wall of the nave was rebuilt 12 in. thinner than the original. It is entered from the nave by a two-centred arch of three chamfered orders, of which the inner is carried down to the ground. The tower is of exceptionally massive construction, the walls being 4 ft. 8 in. thick, with shallow clasping buttresses at the western angles, which rise, with one offset, to the level of the sills of the belfry windows, just above a string-course which divides the tower into two stages. It probably had no entrance from outside originally, the doorway in the south face which has a flat lintel with a trefoil imposed, being of modern stonework. A similar, but 14th-century doorway inside, across the splayed south-west angle, gives access to the stairway, which is lit by two rectangular slit-windows. An interesting feature of the stair is a

<sup>73</sup> Add. MS. 29264, fol. 163.

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projecting 1½-inch bead ascending spirally on the newel by way of a handrail. The west window is a narrow lancet, deeply splayed, the sill being formed into three steps. The belfry windows have two lights with four-centred heads. On the south face, below the clock-face, is a narrow slit-window with a round head cut from a single stone. The upper portion of the tower with embattled parapet and crocketed pinnacles was probably added in the 15th century but has been restored.

An old font, of flower-pot shape, on a modern base, standing in the tower, may be of 12th-century date.

On the east wall of the nave, north of the chancel arch, is an oval carved wooden monument to Capt. Abraham Murcott, who was drowned off the Scilly Isles in the great storm of 1703;<sup>73a</sup> it bears a shield of his arms rising out of a boat and supported by a sailor and Neptune.

There are four bells<sup>74</sup> by Hugh Watts with the dates 1626, 1640, and 1646 (perhaps in error for 1640).

The Communion plate consists of a silver chalice, paten, and flagon, apparently of the early 18th century.

The registers of burials begin in 1559, marriages in 1590, and baptisms in 1606.

Cubbington was at first a chapelry *ADWOWSON* of Leek Wootton, and so granted to

Kenilworth priory at its foundation in 1122 by Geoffrey de Clinton,<sup>75</sup> this being confirmed in 1314<sup>76</sup> and 1477.<sup>77</sup> It was appropriated by the monastery in 1331, having by this time become a separate parish.<sup>78</sup> A vicarage was ordained in 1345.<sup>79</sup> After the Dissolution the advowson was at first retained by the Crown,<sup>80</sup> but was granted, with the rectory, in December 1550 to Sir Ralph Sadleir.<sup>81</sup> He presumably conveyed it to John Hanby, or Hamby, from whom in 1555 it was purchased by Thomas Shuckburgh.<sup>82</sup> He granted a turn to his eldest son Anthony and John Dasset,<sup>83</sup> and must have bequeathed it to his third son Benedict, who made the next presentation in 1561.<sup>84</sup> He, his wife Alice (Fawkenor), and son-in-law Thomas Greswold made a conveyance of it in 1587 to Constance Foster,<sup>85</sup> but from this time to the early 18th century it descended with the manor of Cubbington Grange, held by the Greswold family during most of this period.

In 1652 Thomas Greswold leased it to Matthew Holbeck and William Ley.<sup>86</sup> In 1729 and 1732 Jacob or James Wright was patron, Mary Wright, widow, in 1764, and Edward, Lord Leigh in 1768.<sup>87</sup> The advowson, like the manor, remained connected with the Leigh family after the extinction of the barony in 1786, the Hon. Mary Leigh being patron in 1792,<sup>88</sup> and other members being concerned in leases and recoveries in 1806 and 1812;<sup>89</sup> James Henry Leigh was patron in 1822<sup>90</sup> and his son Chandos (later Lord Leigh) in 1831.<sup>91</sup> After this the advowson finally parted company with the manor, being held in 1850 by Edward Woodcock,<sup>92</sup> in 1859 by the Rev. M. Anstis (also incumbent), 1880 to 1915 by Mrs. Bean,<sup>93</sup> and since 1926 by the Bishop of Coventry.<sup>94</sup>

The value of the church was £8 in 1291;<sup>95</sup> the rectory was farmed for £6,<sup>96</sup> and the vicarage was rated at £6 6s. 8d., plus 2s. for synodals, in 1535.<sup>97</sup>

**Church Land.** The land formerly *CHARITIES* constituting the endowment of this charity was sold in 1859 and the proceeds of sale invested. The annual income, amounting to £3 17s. 8d. is applied towards the repair of the church.

Thomas Sotherne by will dated 23 September 1630 gave lands in Cubbington, the income to be applied as to 30s. to the poor of Stoneleigh, and towards the repair of Hudson's bridges; 20s. to the poor of Stareton and to the repair of Stareton footbridge; and 30s. to the poor of Cubbington. The charity is regulated by a Scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 24 January 1908 which appoints a body of estate trustees to manage the property, and local bodies of trustees for each of the three places named above. The scheme provides that the income of the charity shall be divided into eight equal parts, three of such parts to be applied by the Stoneleigh trustees in accordance with the directions contained in the will, three parts by the Cubbington trustees in like manner, and the remaining two parts by the Stareton trustees in like manner. The land formerly belonging to the charity was sold in 1920 and the proceeds of sale invested. The share of the income applicable for this parish amounts to £26 8s.

## DUNCHURCH AND THURLASTON

Acreage: Dunchurch, 3,137 (3,641 since 1931). Thurlaston, 1,823; Total, 4,960 (now 5,464).

Population: Dunchurch, 1911, 935; 1921, 963; 1931, 1,255 (1,355 on present area). Thurlaston, 1911, 313; 1921, 285; 1931, 245. Totals: 1911, 1,248; 1921, 1,248; 1931, 1,500 (1,600 on present area).

Dunchurch, with its hamlets of Thurlaston (a separate civil parish), Cawston, and Toft, is a large village situated on the main road from London to Coventry and Birmingham, where it is crossed by that from Southam to Rugby, 3 miles south-west of the

last-named town. In 1931 a portion of Dunchurch parish was transferred to Rugby, and that part of Bilton not included in Rugby merged in Dunchurch.<sup>1</sup>

The village is grouped round the junction of the Coventry, Daventry, and Rugby roads. Most of the houses are built of red brick with tiled roofs, dating from the 18th century, but a short distance along the Rugby road there is a small group of timber-framed houses with thatched roofs, and one of puddled clay, now plastered over. These clay-built houses have very thick walls and small windows set in deep splay. Close to the church there is a two-story timber-framed

<sup>73a</sup> The date on the monument is 1702, but the famous storm was in November 1703.

<sup>74</sup> Tilley and Walters, *Church Bells of Warwick*, 150.

<sup>75</sup> *P.C.H. Warwick*, ii, 86; Harl. MS. 3650, fol. 43v.

<sup>76</sup> *Cal. Chart.* R. iii, 277.

<sup>77</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1476-85, p. 66.

<sup>78</sup> *Ibid.* 1330-4, p. 209. The *Taxatio* of 1291 describes it as a church.

<sup>79</sup> *Wm. Salt* Sec. i, 276.

<sup>80</sup> Dugd. 302.

<sup>81</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1549-51, p. 272.

<sup>82</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 2 & 3 Phil. & Mary.

<sup>83</sup> Dugd. 302.

<sup>84</sup> Feet of F. East. 29 Eliz.

<sup>85</sup> *Ibid.* Warw. Mich. 1652.

<sup>86</sup> Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.).

<sup>87</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>88</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 47 Geo. III;

*Recov. R. Mich.* 53 Geo. III, ro. 51.

<sup>89</sup> *Clerical Guide*.

<sup>90</sup> Lewis, *Topog. Dict.*

<sup>91</sup> White, *Directory of Warw.* 612.

<sup>92</sup> *Clergy Lists*.

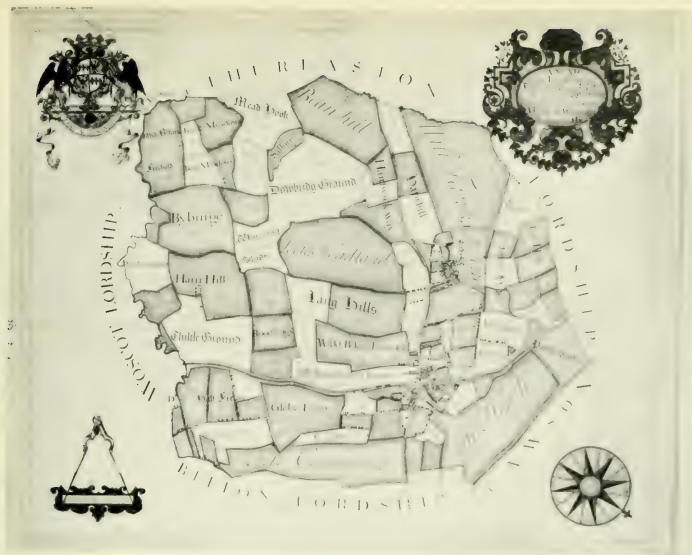
<sup>93</sup> Crookford, 1926.

<sup>94</sup> *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 241.

<sup>95</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 64.

<sup>96</sup> *Ibid.* 70.

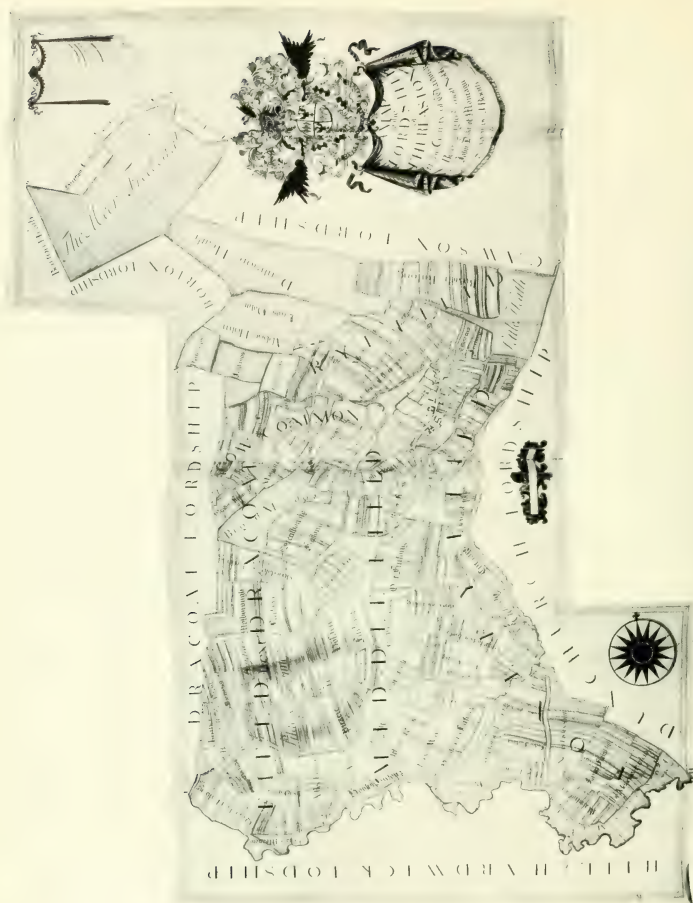
<sup>97</sup> Rugby Urban District (Extension) Order, 1931.



### MAP OF DUNCHIE RICH



MAP OF THURLSTON AS INCLOSED IN 1729  
(East at top)



MAP OF THURLASTON IN 1717, BEHOLD INCLOSURE  
(West at top)



house with a projecting upper story, formerly the Lion Inn dated 1665, which has been plastered over; a row of almshouses with an inscription dated 1695, entirely rebuilt in 1818 in brick, and a red-brick building with stone dressings, now divided into two residences, formerly a Church School built in 1707. At the road junction there is a cross with a square tapered shaft with an inscription stating that it was erected in 1813 as a milestone; the steps probably belong to an earlier cross.

Dunchurch lay upon an important high road, though in 1675 the portion of this road east of the village was notoriously bad,<sup>2</sup> while two centuries earlier the western portion, over Dunsmore, was dangerous for other reasons. John Rous, inveighing against inclosure by greedy landlords, particularly instances Cawston, the portion of this parish north of the road—Cawston on Dunsmore was formerly a township (*villa*) but now (c. 1490) is only a grange of the Abbot of Pipewell, by grant of the Earl of Warwick, and it is now a den of thieves and murderers. The monks rejoice in the profit from inclosure, but those impoverished by robbery committed by means of that inclosure grieve. The voice of the blood of men killed and mutilated cries to God. The road is perilous, and it is the high and public road between the city of London and the city of Coventry.<sup>3</sup>

Licence was given in 1607-8 for a market,<sup>4</sup> and with its favourable position as a road centre Dunchurch might have developed into an important town; to this day milestones on the main roads give distances to Dunchurch. Rugby, however, in the Avon valley, became the centre in the railway age, and even earlier with its school and better established market had outpaced Dunchurch, though it is worth noting that Dunchurch was only about a third smaller than Rugby in 1801, and also in 1730 if the numbers of houses given in Thomas's edition of Dugdale are correct.<sup>5</sup> In 1332 there were in Rugby only 16 tax-payers against 35 in Dunchurch and Thurlaston.<sup>6</sup>

The ground slopes from 400 ft. at the church to just under 300 ft. in the valley of the small stream which forms the north-west boundary, flowing northwards round Cawston to the Avon, and 260 ft. by the Rains Brook, the south-eastern boundary.

Minor roads lead from the village northwards to Bilton and north-west to Cawston, from Bilton through Cawston to join the main Coventry road at Blue Boar Farm at the western extremity of the parish, and from the latter road Northampton Lane branches northwards near Dunchurch Station (2 miles from the village), forming a direct route from Northampton to the west, avoiding both Dunchurch and Rugby. The road from Dunchurch to Northampton was noted as being in a very bad state in 1754.<sup>7</sup>

Thurlaston hamlet is on a by-road a little south of the main Coventry road, which on its way across

Dunsmore Heath is lined with trees, forming an avenue nearly 5 miles long.

In 1605 Sir Everard Digby called a meeting of disaffected gentry of Warwickshire at Dunchurch for 5 November, ostensibly for a hunting expedition on Dunsmore, but in reality to receive news of the success or failure of the Gunpowder Plot.<sup>8</sup>

Famous natives of Dunchurch include Thomas Newcombe (1627-81), king's printer to Charles II; his son (died 1691) left money to build almshouses in the village.<sup>9</sup> Also, probably, William Tans'ur or Tanzer (1699?-1783), psalmist, some of whose hymn tunes are still sung; his parents were Dunchurch people, and he was baptized here (aged 6), but he may have been born at Barnes (Surrey).<sup>10</sup>

White mentions a farmer named Thomas Maycock who, though accidentally blinded by Rugby school-boys, 'is extremely ingenious; has, since he lost his sight, erected several buildings, invented and made improvements in agricultural implements . . . is said to be one of the best judges of corn and cattle; and has taught reading, writing and music'.<sup>11</sup>

There seems to be no surviving Inclosure Award or Act, but between 1699 and 1730 the parish was inclosed 'to its great improvement'.<sup>12</sup> In 1266 there were at Cawston two common ovens baking for Pipewell Abbey tenants in Dunchurch, Rugby, Lawford, and Newbold, and in Ashby St. Legers, Winwick, and Elkington (Northants.), one oven baking 16 quarters weekly and the other 6, the fuel being obtained on the heath.<sup>13</sup> Seven parishes meet on Dunsmore Heath, which land or freeboard was common to all these parishes,<sup>14</sup> but was given to Thurlaston on its inclosure in 1728.<sup>15</sup> In 1712 there were 31 'home closes' in Thurlaston, containing 23 a. 2 r. 31 p.<sup>16</sup> A kiln existed on the Montagu estates in Thurlaston in 1710.

Roger Pantolf gave to Pipewell Abbey the dam of his mill-estate outside their inclosure at Potford.<sup>17</sup> This may have been one of the two mills held by the abbey at Cawston in 1291,<sup>18</sup> and in 1546 the pond called Potford Dam was among the Pipewell property granted to Thomas Boughton.<sup>19</sup> A windmill in Dunchurch 'on the West heathe' is mentioned in 1547, as well as a rabbit-warren and a turbarry.<sup>20</sup>

**DUNCHURCH**, assessed at 5 hides in *MANORS* Domesday Book, had been held by Ulmar in the time of Edward the Confessor, and in 1086 was held by William from Osbern son of Richard.<sup>21</sup> The manor, assessed at half a knight's fee, continued to form part of the honor of Richard's Castle in the Welsh Marches, being held of William de Stuteville of that honor in 1235-622 and 1242-3, when John de Dunheved was tenant.<sup>22</sup> In 1287 another John de Dunheved held the manor of Dunchurch of Robert de Mortimer of Richard's Castle for 1 knight's fee.<sup>23</sup> Eustachia, John's widow, held a messuage and 2 carucates of land of Hugh de Mortimer

<sup>2</sup> Ogilby, *Britannia*, 43.

<sup>3</sup> Rous, *Hitt. Regum Angliæ* (ed. 1744).

<sup>123</sup>.

<sup>4</sup> Pat. 5 Jas. I, pt. 27.

<sup>5</sup> pp. 26, 285, 287, 288.

<sup>6</sup> *Lay Subt. R.* (Dugd. Soc.), 36, 37.

<sup>7</sup> *Hitt. MSS. Comm. Buccleuch MSS.*

*Montagu House*, i, 415.

<sup>8</sup> *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1603-10, pp. 243, 244, &c.; *F.C.H. Warw.* ii, 446.

<sup>9</sup> *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>11</sup> *Directory Warw.* 655 (1850 ed.).

<sup>12</sup> Dugd. 285, *ex inf.* the Rev. Edw. Davies, vicar. The actual year of inclosure was 1728 (Glebe Terrier *sub anno*, Shire Hall, Warw. D.R.O. 72 A); *ex inf.* Mr. M. W. Beresford.

<sup>13</sup> Dugd. 286; Cott. MS. Otho B. xiv, fol. 192.

<sup>14</sup> Survey of Thurlaston 1716 (Duke of Buccleuch's maps at Boughton, Northants.).

<sup>15</sup> 'The lordship being inclosed in 1728' (Glebe Terrier for 1748, Shire Hall, Warw.); *ex inf.* Mr. M. W. Beresford.

<sup>16</sup> Buccleuch-Queensberry MSS. deposited with Northants. Rec. Soc.

<sup>17</sup> Anct. Deeds (P.R.O.), D. 3457.

<sup>18</sup> *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 257.

<sup>19</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII.* xxi (1), 138; (n3).

<sup>20</sup> *Mon. Bailliffs' Accts.* (Dugd. Soc.), 103-4.

<sup>21</sup> *F.C.H. Warw.* i, 318.

<sup>22</sup> *Be. et Fe. Soc.* 513.

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.* 948.

<sup>24</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ii, 640 (p. 395).

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in 1308,<sup>25</sup> and in the following year the overlordship of this holding, assessed at half a knight's fee, was ordered to be delivered to Thomas de Bykenore and his wife Joan, who was Hugh de Mortimer's eldest daughter and coheir.<sup>26</sup> Soon afterwards Richard's Castle passed to a branch of the Talbot family through the marriage of Richard Talbot with Joan de Mortimer as her second husband.<sup>27</sup> Richard's grandson John died in 1375 holding a knight's fee in Dunchurch.<sup>28</sup> His second son, another John, was the last male Talbot of this line, and died in possession of Dunchurch, then held by Sir Kynard de la Bere and Katherine his wife, in 1388.<sup>29</sup> His estates devolved on three coheirresses, and Dunchurch is not mentioned further in this connexion.

By a charter of between 1154 and 1161, confirmed in 1235,<sup>30</sup> Ingelram Clement granted a grange in the *territorium* of Bilton, now partly in Dunchurch, with other lands in the latter parish, to Pipewell Abbey (Northants.); and this monastery also obtained from Ralph son of Wigan 7½ of the 8 virgates of land in Dunchurch with which his father had been enfeoffed by Henry I, the remaining half-virgate being given to the church of Dunchurch.<sup>31</sup> The Abbot and Convent of Pipewell were granted free warren in their demesne lands in Dunchurch and elsewhere in 1283.<sup>32</sup> Their property in Dunchurch and Toft in 1291 comprised 6 carucates valued at 15s. each, rents of £2 annually, livestock worth £2, and 2s. in perquisites of court.<sup>33</sup> In 1316 the abbot was stated to be lord of Dunchurch and its members.<sup>34</sup> The possessions of this monastery in Dunchurch, including Bilton Grange and Toft, were valued in 1535 at £16 16s., plus £16 10s. for the rectory.<sup>35</sup> In 1557 they were reckoned as a manor and assessed at one-fortieth of a knight's fee, and were granted in chief to Sir Rowland Hill and Thomas Leigh, citizens and aldermen of London,<sup>36</sup> after which date they descended with the rest of Dunchurch (see below).

The part of Dunchurch not granted to Pipewell passed to Ingelram's son William Clement. He left two daughters of whom the elder, Christiane, married Avenel the Butler. They sent the younger daughter Alice to the nunnery of Ankerwick when she was 5 years old, and three years later persuaded her to say that she wished to be a nun.<sup>37</sup> When she came to years of discretion she repudiated her vows and left the nunnery; for which she and her supporter William de Bidun were excommunicated.<sup>38</sup> But a later inquiry into her case caused Pope Innocent III to annul the sentence and to approve her marriage to Alan de Wodecot.<sup>39</sup> In 1208 Hamo de Bidun granted her land in Warwickshire for her life;<sup>40</sup> and in the same year when the Abbot of Pipewell sued Hamo for the advowson of Dunchurch he called Alice to warrant it.<sup>41</sup>

Christiane had died before this, and her son Jordan the Butler was ill in 1220<sup>42</sup> and died before 1223, in which year William de Stuteville and Margaret his wife, of Richard's Castle, claimed the custody of Jordan's daughter and heir Christiane.<sup>43</sup> Alice having, presumably, left no surviving issue<sup>44</sup> the manor was held entirely by Christiane, who married John de Dunheved,<sup>45</sup> and, after his death, Thomas Trymenel, with whom in 1260 she granted the manor and the wardship and marriage of her son John de Dunheved to Henry de Montford for 5 years.<sup>46</sup> In 1300 John de Dunheved and Eustachia his wife settled two parts of the manor on themselves for their lives with contingent remainders to their sons and daughter Stephen, John, Thomas, Oliver, and Rose.<sup>47</sup> Stephen leased the manor to John de Somery for life and then fled the realm for a felony.<sup>48</sup> John the second son apparently mortgaged the manor to Sir John Pecche, whose rent-collector he murdered in 1325,<sup>49</sup> and granted it to Sir John and Eleanor his wife and to their heirs in 1330, to hold of the chief lords.<sup>50</sup> Sir John Pecche died seized of the manor, held of John Talbot of Richard's Castle, in 1386, leaving two infant daughters as coheirresses,<sup>51</sup> and two years later it was in the hands of Sir Kynard de la Bere, who had married Katherine, Sir John's widow.<sup>52</sup> Margaret Pecche, who was one day old at her father's death, married Sir William Montfort of Coleshill, to whose family the manor passed. In 1410 she, with her husband and her mother, made a settlement of the manors of Dunchurch and Toft on themselves and her heirs.<sup>53</sup> The manors passed to the Crown on the attainder and execution of Sir Simon Montfort for his support of Perkin Warbeck in 1495.<sup>54</sup> The following year the manor of Dunchurch was granted to Gerald, Earl of Kildare, and Elizabeth (St. John) his wife,<sup>55</sup> this grant being renewed in 1503, when free warren was granted, and Toft is also mentioned.<sup>56</sup> After the earl's death in 1513 his widow granted a term of years in the manors to the Prior of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England; she died in 1516.<sup>57</sup> In 1529 Sir Thomas Fitzgerald, her grandson, had licence to alienate the manors.<sup>58</sup> He, as 10th Earl of Kildare, and his brother James, who was concerned with Thomas Howth in a recovery of the two manors in 1532,<sup>59</sup> were executed for rebellion in 1537, so that the manors again fell to the Crown, Dunchurch being granted in 1541 to Sir John Williams.<sup>60</sup> He must have re-granted it almost immediately to Anthony Stringer of London who, in 1543, exchanged it, with lands in Bucks. and Northants., for Marlborough Priory and other monastic estates.<sup>61</sup> It then remained with the Crown till 1555, when it was granted to Christopher Smythe and Thomas Warton, to be held in chief as one-fortieth of a knight's fee with three other manors.<sup>62</sup> In the

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid.* v. 58 (p. 25).

<sup>26</sup> *Cal. Chise.* 1307-13, p. 97.

<sup>27</sup> G.E.C. *Compl. Feudal* (2nd ed.), ix, 266.

<sup>28</sup> *Chan. Inq.* p.m. 49 Edw. III, pt. 2, 1st nos. 50.

<sup>29</sup> *Ibid.* 13 Ric. II, 31 and 180.

<sup>30</sup> *Cal. Chart. R.* i, 207. Dugdale (p. 283), quoting Reg. Pipewell, fol. 65 and 39b, dates the original grant to Stephen's reign.

<sup>31</sup> *Bk. of Fees*, 1279. Cf. *Red Bk. of Exch.* 304.

<sup>32</sup> *Cal. Chart. R.* ii, 266.

<sup>33</sup> *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 257.

<sup>34</sup> *Feudal Aids*, v, 176.

<sup>35</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 295.

<sup>36</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1555-7, p. 476.

<sup>37</sup> *Curia Regis R.* v, 79.

<sup>38</sup> *Ibid.* 183-6.

<sup>39</sup> *Ibid.* 162.

<sup>40</sup> *Ibid.* 79.

<sup>41</sup> *Ibid.* 280.

<sup>42</sup> *Ibid.* viii, 184.

<sup>43</sup> *Ibid.* ix, 325; *Bracton's Note Book*, 1006.

<sup>44</sup> She had a grown son Robert in 1214: *Curia Regis R.* vii, 109.

<sup>45</sup> *Exc. e Rot. Fin.* i, 420.

<sup>46</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xi), 779.

<sup>47</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xiv), 1158.

<sup>48</sup> *Cal. Fine R.* iii, 185.

<sup>49</sup> *Cal. Close*, 1323-7, p. 201; *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, 848. He obtained a pardon,

presumably for this murder, in 1327: *Cal. Pat.* 1327-30, p. 51.

<sup>50</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xv), 1684.

<sup>51</sup> *Chan. Inq.* p.m. 10 Ric. II, no. 92.

<sup>52</sup> *Ibid.* 13 Ric. II, no. 51.

<sup>53</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xviii), 2462.

<sup>54</sup> *Chan. Inq.* p.m. (Ser. 2), xxiii, 202.

<sup>55</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1494-1509, p. 84.

<sup>56</sup> *Ibid.* p. 308.

<sup>57</sup> *Chan. Inq.* p.m. (Ser. 2), xxxi, 2.

<sup>58</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, iv (3), 6135 (26).

<sup>59</sup> *Recov. R. Trin.* 24 Hen. VIII, ro.

<sup>60</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xvi, 779 (21).

<sup>61</sup> *Ibid.* xviii (1), 802 (19).

<sup>62</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1554-5, pp. 316-17.

same year Smythe and Warton received licence to alienate the manor to Sir Rowland Hill and Thomas Leigh,<sup>63</sup> which was accomplished in 1556.<sup>64</sup> By a private agreement between Hill and Leigh Dunchurch was reserved to the latter and his descendants.<sup>65</sup> In 1575 Alice Leigh, widow of Thomas, who had been knighted and was Lord Mayor of London in 1558-9,<sup>66</sup> was dealing with Dunchurch, Thurlaston, and Long Lawford manors.<sup>67</sup> Her youngson Sir William and his wife Frances (Harington) and son Francis conveyed the two first-named manors, and that of Toft, to Sir Thomas Egerton, Lord Keeper of the Great Seal and Francis's father-in-law, and Edward Mountague, in 1597,<sup>68</sup> probably for a settlement on Francis's marriage. Further transfers by fine occurred between these families in 1601,<sup>69</sup> 1605,<sup>70</sup> and 1609.<sup>71</sup> In 1620-1 Sir Francis Leigh obtained the right to hold a yearly court leet.<sup>72</sup> Sir Francis Leigh's son Francis was created Baron Dunsmore in 1628<sup>73</sup> and was lord of the manor when Dugdale wrote (1640), but died without male issue in 1653. His daughter Elizabeth married Thomas Wriothesley, Earl of Southampton,<sup>74</sup> and their daughter, another Elizabeth, inherited the manors of Dunchurch, Thurlaston, and Toft, and married Jocelin, Lord Percy, who became Earl of Northumberland in 1668.<sup>75</sup> After his death without issue in 1670 she married Ralph, 1st Duke of Montagu, with whom she was dealing with the manors in 1673.<sup>76</sup> The lordship continued with the Dukes of Montagu till the extinction of the dukedom in 1790, when it passed by marriage to the Dukes of Buccleuch and Queensberry. Charles William, 4th duke, was vouchee in a recovery of 1811,<sup>77</sup> and in 1850 Lord John Scott, probably the second son of the 5th duke, was lord of the manor,<sup>78</sup> which still belongs to the Duke of Buccleuch.

In 1701 a survey of Dunchurch made for the duke showed his estate as 21 yardlands, or 1,560 acres, of which the church lands accounted for 2 acres and glebe for 26 more. The duke as lord of the manor held 743 of the 1,252 acres in the common fields at that date, and 19 of the 21 cottages which had rights of common. Nine years later he was holding courts leet and baron in both Dunchurch and Thurlaston and had right of free fishery in the latter manor; his rents at this date amounted to £573 16s. 4d. from Dunchurch, £327 17s. 11d. (including £70 for the tithes) from Thurlaston, and £265 5s. 6d. from Toft. The rentals from the two latter manors remained roughly constant during the 18th century, but by 1779 the value of Dunchurch, where there were then 80 tenancies, had risen to £790 16s. including £3 1s. 6d. from the herbage of the great roads within the manor of Dun-

church. In 1771 the three manors, with the duke's other Warwickshire estates, were mortgaged to Morris Robinson for £23,164.<sup>79</sup>

The hamlet of TOFT contained two estates which in the 15th century were reckoned as manors. One, first mentioned in 1410,<sup>80</sup> descended with the main manor of Dunchurch, and is not always separately referred to. The other was conveyed in 1464 by John Burgheton of Burgheton (Staffs.) to Humphrey Swinnarton and John Horeway, priest.<sup>81</sup> In 1472 these two settled it on Swinnarton's son-in-law and daughter, Humphrey and Elizabeth Hill of Blore (Staffs.), and their heirs.<sup>82</sup> Humphrey Hill of Buntingdale (Salop), probably their grandson, conveyed it in 1527 to John 'Letteley' of Dunchurch,<sup>83</sup> who was apparently already tenant in 1519.<sup>84</sup> John 'Litley' and Elizabeth his wife in 1564 granted it to John Fawkes.<sup>85</sup> Another John Fawkes, probably his grandson, was dealing with it in 1657,<sup>86</sup> as were Marmaduke and William Fawkes in 1674.<sup>87</sup> William Fawkes, grandson of the mid-17th-century John Fawkes, was lord in 1730,<sup>88</sup> after which date this manor is not separately mentioned.

CAWSTON, which had been held by Edwin in the time of Edward the Confessor, was in 1086 in possession of Turchil of Warwick, of whom Almar held 1½ hides and Ulfr 1 hide.<sup>89</sup> In the 12th century the overlordship was with the Earl of Warwick, who with Henry de Arden, Turchil's grandson, confirmed the gift of Ingelram Clement and William his son of all the land they held in Cawston to the abbey of Pipewell, as stated in a charter of Henry II, confirmed in 1235.<sup>90</sup> In 1201 Margaret de Hondesac<sup>91</sup> granted half a knight's fee here to Pipewell.<sup>92</sup> In 1266 the men of Thurlaston tried to obtain common pasture on Cawston Heath by force, but Gerard the abbot 'stood against the whole town of Thurlaston like a wall', and obtained a verdict favourable to Pipewell in an assize of novel disseisin.<sup>93</sup> In the reign of Edward I there were disputes between Monks Kirby Priory and Pipewell as to the ownership of the grange or manor of Cawston, the former obtaining it 'by fraudulent claims', but after a suit before the king the monks of Pipewell recovered it on payment of 200 marks to Monks Kirby, the agreement being embodied in a fine of 1278.<sup>94</sup> In 1291 the Abbot of Pipewell held 6 carucates worth 15s. each, 2 mills together worth 13s. 4d. and stock valued at £2 10s.<sup>95</sup> Cawston continued in monastic ownership up to the Reformation, the Pipewell property here being valued at £36 6s. 8d. in 1535,<sup>96</sup> and was granted in 1546 to Thomas Boughton for £678 and an undertaking to pay for the woodlands



LEIGH. *Gules a cross engrailed and in the first quarter a losenge argent.*



PIPEWELL ABBEY. *Party argent three crosses gules and azure a crozier erect or.*

<sup>63</sup> Ibid. p. 141.

<sup>64</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Trin. 2 & 3 Phil. & Mary.

<sup>65</sup> Dugd. c.84, quoting Leigh MSS.

<sup>66</sup> *Vitæ Harw.* 1619 (Harl. Soc. xii), 81.

<sup>67</sup> Feet of F. Div. Cos. Mich. 17-18 Eliz.

<sup>68</sup> Ibid. Trin. 39 Eliz.

<sup>69</sup> Ibid. Hil. 43 Eliz.

<sup>70</sup> Ibid. Mich. 3 Jas. I.

<sup>71</sup> Ibid. East. 7 Jas. I.

<sup>72</sup> Dugd. 284, quoting Pat. R. 18 Jas. I.

<sup>73</sup> G. E. C. *Compl. Peerage* (2nd ed.), iii, 104.

<sup>74</sup> Ibid. (2nd ed.), ix, 739.

<sup>75</sup> Ibid.

<sup>76</sup> Feet of F. Mich. 25 Chas. II.

<sup>77</sup> *Recov. R. East.* 54 Geo. III, ro. 39.

<sup>78</sup> White, *Directory Warw.* p. 655.

<sup>79</sup> Buccleuch-Queensberry MSS. *pene* Northants. Rec. Soc.

<sup>80</sup> See note 53 above.

<sup>81</sup> Dugd. 288, quoting MSS. of the Fawkes family.

<sup>82</sup> Ibid.

<sup>83</sup> Ibid.

<sup>84</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 11 Hen. VIII.

<sup>85</sup> Ibid. East. 6 Eliz. <sup>86</sup> Ibid. Hil. 1657.

<sup>87</sup> Ibid. Mich. 26 Chas. II.

<sup>88</sup> Dugd. 288.

<sup>89</sup> *1<sup>st</sup> C.H. Warw.* i, 320-1.

<sup>90</sup> *Cal. Chart. R.* i, 207.

<sup>91</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xi), 75.

<sup>92</sup> Dugd. 286, quoting Reg. Pipewell, fol. 40b. Cf. Cott. MS. Otho B. xiv, 192v.

<sup>93</sup> Ibid.; Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xi), 941.

<sup>94</sup> *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 257.

<sup>95</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 295.

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

as they should be appraised on survey.<sup>96</sup> At this time there were six tenants on the estate. Boughton died in possession in 1558,<sup>97</sup> and his eldest son, another Thomas, two years later, when his brother Edward was still a minor.<sup>98</sup> This latter married Susanna, daughter of Sir John Brocket,<sup>99</sup> and according to Dugdale enjoyed the favour of the Earl of Leicester. With materials from the church of the White Friars in Coventry he 'raised here (at Cawston) the most beautifull Fabrick that then was in all these parts'.<sup>1</sup> He died in 1589;<sup>2</sup> his widow, on whom the manor was settled for life, married George Darrell and survived till 1626,<sup>3</sup> outliving her son Henry. Henry's son Edward was vouchee in a recovery of 1638,<sup>4</sup> and his younger son William had the manor by 1655, when he owed several years' rates but was 'a man so desperate and ill-conditioned that no one dares distrain him';<sup>5</sup> he continued to ignore or threaten the collectors<sup>6</sup> until he died without issue in 1663. His nephew Francis (died 1707) founded and endowed a school in Dunchurch, and devised the manor to his kinsman Edward Boughton, a younger member of the Lawford branch of the family, who was high sheriff in 1712 and lord of the manor in 1730.<sup>7</sup> His son Francis apparently died without issue, the manor being split into five parts among his sisters as coheireses, John, Duke of Montagu, in 1744 obtaining a fifth share from Thomas Harris and his wife.<sup>8</sup> After this date the manor is not separately mentioned and probably descended with Dunchurch.

**THURLASTON**, which had been a 5-hide vill, was in 1086 divided into two parts, 2½ hides (held freely before 1066 by Wiglar) being then held by the Count of Meulan,<sup>9</sup> and 2½ (formerly held by Baldeuin) were held by Hubert of Hugh de Grantemesnil.<sup>10</sup> The Count of Meulan's Warwickshire estates mostly passed to the Earls of Warwick, of whom one fee was held in Thurlaston in 1235-6 and 1242-3,<sup>11</sup> and again in 1316.<sup>12</sup> The Earl of Warwick was stated to be lord in 1372,<sup>13</sup> and again of a knight's fee in 1401.<sup>14</sup>

The subtenant in 1235-6 was William le Franseiz,<sup>15</sup> and in 1242-3 John de Thurlaweston, who held of Roese de Verdon.<sup>16</sup> Theobald de Verdon was in possession in 1316,<sup>17</sup> his subtenants in the following year being Simon son of Margery and John de Derset.<sup>18</sup> In 1337 the fee was held by Hugh Daunserd of Theobald de Verdon the younger.<sup>19</sup> Theobald's widow held it in dower in 1360, when there were

several tenants and the reversion was to Thomas de Furnivall,<sup>20</sup> whose mother was daughter and co-heiress of Theobald by his former wife.<sup>21</sup> At the death of William de Furnivall in 1383 the fee was stated to have been formerly held by John Derset,<sup>22</sup> but though the Talbot Earls of Shrewsbury came into possession of the Furnivall estates through female lines they do not appear to have maintained this mesne lordship in Thurlaston.<sup>23</sup> The Dersets (later Dorsets) continued to hold the manor; William Derset of Thurlaston was a justice of the peace in 1434,<sup>24</sup> and in 1528 William Derset made a conveyance of the manor.<sup>25</sup> In 1533 he and his wife Margaret settled it on trustees,<sup>26</sup> including Edward Cave of Winwick (Northants.), whose daughter and coheires Mary married Thomas Boughton,<sup>27</sup> lord of Cawston. Their son Edward Boughton ran into debt over his great house at Cawston (q.v.), and on his death in 1589 his Thurlaston estate was sold to meet his creditors.<sup>28</sup> It was probably bought by the Leighs of Dunchurch, and descended with that manor, the Duke of Montagu being lord of both in 1730,<sup>29</sup> about which time he owned 1,307 acres in Thurlaston, with 20 tenants.<sup>30</sup>

The estates of Hugh de Grantemesnil passed to the Earls of Leicester,<sup>31</sup> but as there is no record of this earldom in connexion with Thurlaston Dugdale is probably right in identifying the Grantemesnil portion with that of which Wigan the Marshal was enfeoffed by Henry I, and of which a quarter of a knight's fee was held of Ralph, Wigan's son, by Roger de Torlavelstone *de novo feffamento* in 1166.<sup>32</sup> Ralph son of Wigan held 1 ploughland (*waingagium i caruce*) in Thurlaston in 1198,<sup>33</sup> and Stephen de Segrave 10 virgates in 1226-8,<sup>34</sup> of William de Cantilupe, who had been enfeoffed of the Marshal property by William, Ralph's son.<sup>35</sup> In 1232 Stephen was stated to hold these 10 virgates by serjeanty of the king, of the fee of Willoughby,<sup>36</sup> having been granted them by William son of William de Cantilupe in 1228.<sup>37</sup> This manor continued with the Segrave family for over a century,<sup>38</sup> and at the death of John, the last male Segrave, in 1353<sup>39</sup> passed, through his daughter Elizabeth, to her second husband Sir Walter Mauny, who held it of the Earl of Warwick at his death in 1372.<sup>40</sup> His daughter Anne, Countess of Pembroke, was his heir, but the manor was held to pass to Thomas Mowbray, 1st Duke of Norfolk, Elizabeth Segrave's son by her first husband.<sup>41</sup> He was banished and died in exile in 1399,

<sup>96</sup> L. and P. Hen. VIII, xxi (1), 1383 (63). There were two parks at Cawston; the greater had been planted by Abbot Siward (date unknown) and the smaller by Andrew de Royewell (1298-1308): Cott. MS. Otho B. xiv, fol. 192v.

<sup>97</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cv, 75.

<sup>98</sup> Ibid. cxviii, 93; cxlii, 5.

<sup>99</sup> *Vitit. Warw.* 1619 (Harleian Soc. xii) 81.

<sup>1</sup> Dugd. 287. It was apparently pulled down before 1825: *N. & Q.* 7th Ser. xii, 468.

<sup>2</sup> Dugd. 287, quoting Dunchurch parish registers.

<sup>3</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccclvii, 109.

<sup>4</sup> *Recov. R. Trin.* 14 Chas. I, ro. 42.

<sup>5</sup> *Warw. Co. Rec.* iii, 290.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid. 300; iv, 22, 190, 207, 218.

<sup>7</sup> Dugd. 287.

<sup>8</sup> Feet of F. Warw. East. 17 Geo. II.

<sup>9</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* i, 314.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid. i, 326.

<sup>11</sup> *Bk. of Fees*, 507, 955.

<sup>12</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, 615 (p. 405).

<sup>13</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. 46 Edw. III (1st nos.), 38.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid. 2 Hen. IV, no. 58.

<sup>15</sup> *Bk. of Fees*, 507.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid. 955.

<sup>17</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, 615 (p. 405).

<sup>18</sup> Ibid. vi, 54 (p. 38).

<sup>19</sup> Ibid. vii, 710 (p. 501).

<sup>20</sup> Ibid. x, 637 (pp. 512-13).

<sup>21</sup> Nichols, *Leic.* iv, 279; G. E. C.

*Compl. Peerage* (2nd ed.), v, 683.

<sup>22</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. 6 Ric. II, 41.

<sup>23</sup> Lands in Thurlaston, however, continued to form a tithing of the Verdoun manor of Brandon: *Hist. MSS. Com. Middleton MSS.* 304-12 *passim*.

<sup>24</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1429-36, p. 384.

<sup>25</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Hil. 16 Hen. VIII.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid. East. 25 Hen. VIII.

<sup>27</sup> Dugd. 288; Nichols, *Leic.* iv, 364.

<sup>28</sup> Dugd. 288.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

<sup>30</sup> Buccleuch-Queensberry MSS. *penes*

Northants. Rec. Soc. (Vol. of Maps of

Lord John Scott's Warw. Estate, 3/10).

<sup>31</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* i, 279.

<sup>32</sup> *Red Book of Exch.* (Rolls Ser.), 304.

<sup>33</sup> *Bk. of Fees*, 8.

<sup>34</sup> Ibid. 376.

<sup>35</sup> Ibid. 1279.

<sup>36</sup> Ibid. 1356. In 1248 the Marshal's serjeanty was said to lie in Willoughby, Dunchurch, and Thurlaston and to be held by finding an armed serjeant with two horses for any army summoned in England or Wales; the Dunchurch land had been alienated (as mentioned above) to the Abbot of Pipewell: Cott. MS. Otho B. xiv, fol. 192.

<sup>37</sup> *Cal. Chart. R.* i, 85.

<sup>38</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xv), 1963.

<sup>39</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* x, 116 (p. 108).

<sup>40</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. 46 Edw. III, 1st nos.

<sup>41</sup> Ibid.

<sup>42</sup> G. E. C. *Compl. Peerage* (2nd ed.), ix,

601.



when his son Thomas was a minor.<sup>42</sup> Thomas Derby<sup>43</sup> and Thomas de Rempston<sup>44</sup> were successively appointed stewards and receivers of the ducal manors in



SECREAVE. *Sable a lion argent crowned ar.*



BERKELEY. *Gules a chevron and ten crosses fessy argent.*

the hands of the Crown. Thomas, 1st Duke, granted an annuity to his esquire John Wilcotes, including £5 from the issues of the manor of Thurlaston.<sup>45</sup> After the death of the last Mowbray Duke of Norfolk in 1477,<sup>46</sup> it passed to the Lords Berkeley, who were descended through Isabel, daughter of the 1st Duke, who married James, Lord Berkeley (1424).<sup>47</sup> Sir Maurice Berkeley, grandson of James, had licence of entry to his estates without proof of age in 1507,<sup>48</sup> and by his will dated 1 May 1520 left a life interest in Thurlaston, held of 'the heir of Cantelow', to his widow Katherine, with remainder to his brother Sir Thomas Berkeley; he died in 1523.<sup>49</sup> Sir Thomas's son, another Thomas, died in 1534;<sup>50</sup> his posthumous son Henry and his wife Katherine granted the manor, with view of frankpledge in Dunchurch, to Alice widow of Sir Thomas Leigh, lord of Dunchurch manor, in 1572,<sup>51</sup> from which date this manor has descended with Dunchurch.

Much property in Thurlaston, of which the total value in 1535 was £5 14s. 1d.,<sup>52</sup> was at various times granted to Pipewell Abbey. Ellen, widow of Richard de Turlaveston, conveyed her dower of 1 virgate and a third part of 16 acres in 1199,<sup>53</sup> and at the same time William son of Stephen conveyed the 'common of pasture of Thurlaston where the granges of the abbot are set'.<sup>54</sup> Nine further grants, including one from Ralph son of Wigan and totalling about 8 virgates, were confirmed in 1235.<sup>55</sup> The monastic estate in 1291 was reckoned at 4 carucates in demesne worth 12s. each, and rents of £1 10s.<sup>56</sup>

Immediately after the Dissolution Christopher Seyntgerman, cousin of William Boughton of Lawford (whose son Thomas was to receive the Cawston portion of the Pipewell estates) wrote (July 1539) to Cromwell suggesting that William Boughton's wife should have 'the £3 15s. land in Thurlaston' for life, with remainder to her son,<sup>57</sup> but this recommendation seems not to have been carried out and the Thurlaston property of the abbey stayed in Crown hands till 1557, when it was granted to Sir Rowland Hill and Thomas Leigh,<sup>58</sup> subsequently following Dunchurch.

Lands in Thurlaston Fields, formerly belonging to Coventry Priory and in 1570 in the occupation of

William Olney, were in that year granted to Nicholas Yetseweit and Bartholomew Brokesby.<sup>59</sup>

The division of Thurlaston between the abbots of Pipewell and lay lords is reflected in the following note on an early-18th-century survey: 'The meadows are divided into pieces called Hides, each [of] 20 equal parts called Poles, the Hides are called Abbot's Hide and Lord's Hide, which fall interchangeably throughout the Meadows, but the Inequality of the lengths of the Hides has occasioned the Changing of them, one year beginning with Abbot's Hide and the next with Lord's Hide, and each Proprietor keeps the same number of Poles in the same Hides, which varies the Contents.'<sup>60</sup>

The church of *ST. PETER* is situated *CHURCH* on the north side of the Coventry-Daventry road, in the centre of the village, and stands in a large churchyard. It consists of a chancel, nave, north and south aisles, north chancel aisle, west tower, and vestry. It was almost entirely rebuilt late in the 14th century and the tower added probably early in the 15th century. Little is left of the earlier church other than the south wall of the chancel, the bases of the arcade pillars and the piscinas, all of 13th-century date, together with the north door, of the early 14th century, all re-used in the rebuilding. A modern aisle has been added on the north side of the chancel and the south porch destroyed and replaced by a modern vestry. In addition there is the damaged basin of a 12th-century font lying in the nave, and four carved-oak traceried panels in the modern priests' stalls, one bearing the arms of the Isle of Man,<sup>60a</sup> probably early-15th-century. The whole church was extensively restored in 1908. The earlier south wall of the chancel is built of roughly coursed limestone rubble with red sandstone dressings, all the later work being carried out with red sandstone ashlar. The roofs are all modern, of steep pitch covered with tiles, separate roofs replacing one of a lower pitch which roofed the nave and aisles in one span.

The east wall of the chancel has been refaced with red sandstone ashlar, the gable and diagonal buttresses rebuilt. It is lighted by a modern pointed traceried window of three trefoil lights with a moulded panel below each light and a hood-mould having head-stops. On the south there is a 13th-century buttress in the centre, with a rectangular low-side window of one splay, and, to the east, a pointed late-14th-century much restored window of two trefoil lights with hood-mould. The chancel walls were raised and finished with a moulded eaves-course during the 14th-century rebuilding to correspond with the newly built aisles.

The south aisle, which has a plinth of two splays and a string-course at sill level, is divided into three bays by buttresses which terminate at the moulded eaves-course. The two bays to the east have pointed traceried windows of three trefoil lights with hood-moulds, the tracery and mullions cemented over, and a similar window in the east wall. In the west bay a modern vestry of red sandstone ashlar has been built,

<sup>42</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. 1 Hen. IV, pt. 1, no. 712.

<sup>43</sup> Cal. Pat. 1399-1401, p. 18.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid. 1401-5, p. 107.

<sup>45</sup> Ibid. 1405-8, p. 81.

<sup>46</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. 17 Edw. IV, no. 58.

<sup>47</sup> G. E. C. *Compl. Peerage* (2nd ed.), ii, 132.

<sup>48</sup> Cal. Pat. 1494-1509, p. 541.

<sup>49</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), xli, 37.

<sup>50</sup> Ibid. cvi, 90.

<sup>51</sup> Feet of F. Hil. 14 Eliz.

<sup>52</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 295.

<sup>53</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xi), 33.

<sup>54</sup> Ibid. 67. <sup>55</sup> Cal. Chanc. R. i, 204.

<sup>56</sup> Tax. Eccl. (Rec. Com.), 257.

<sup>57</sup> L. and P. Hen. V III, xiv (1), 1349.

<sup>58</sup> Cal. Pat. 1555-7, p. 476.

<sup>59</sup> Pat. 12 Eliz. pt. 10, m. 23.

<sup>60</sup> Buccleuch-Queensberry, MSS. *convent* Northants. Rec. Soc. (Vol. of Maps of Lord John Scott's Warw. Estate, 3/8).

<sup>60a</sup> John Grene, who became vicar of Dunchurch in 1414, held the living with the bishopric of Sodor and Man (to which he was appointed in 1441) until 1450: Dugd. 284.



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with a pointed doorway on the west, and lighted on the south by a pointed traceried window of two trefoil lights. The west side is lighted by a small circular quatrefoil light placed high up in the wall. The north aisle is also divided into three bays; the two eastern have pointed traceried windows of two splays, each with two trefoil lights, hood-moulds, and a string-course at sill level, the tracery cemented over. In the west bay there is a doorway with a moulded pointed arch of three wave-moulded orders carried down the jambs without capitals. The west side has a modern pointed traceried window of two trefoil lights with a hood-mould.

In building the modern aisle to the chancel some of the old work taken from the chancel and the east end of the aisle was re-used, e.g. the window and diagonal buttress from the east wall of the aisle in a similar position in the new aisle, the north door, a two-light traceried window, buttress, low-side window, and moulded eaves-course, but not all in their corresponding positions; the low-side window has been put towards the eastern end instead of the west and at a higher level. The early-14th-century door, rebuilt in its normal position, has a moulded segmental-pointed arch with the mouldings continued down the jambs to splayed stops.

The stonework of the tower is badly decayed and much of the detail has been lost. The tower, which is divided into three stages by string-courses, has diagonal buttresses in six stages at each of its angles, those on the west with carved grotesque beasts projecting from the upper stage. It has a moulded plinth and is finished with a battlemented parapet resting on a hollow-moulded string-course with carved grotesque animals at intervals and at each corner. Immediately below the string is a band of square quatrefoil and traceried panels carried right round the tower. On the west side there is a doorway with a moulded pointed arch of three orders, the centre one has five moulded foils on each side with a trefoil at the apex. All details of the jambs have been lost but it is probable that the cusped order was supported on capitals and shafts. There is an outer band to the arch of trefoiled panels with square quatrefoil panels between, and a hood-mould with traces of stops. Above is a restored window of three cinquefoil lights with tracery; the pointed arch has an outer band of panels similar to those round the door, and the reveals and the soffit of the arch panelled with trefoil-headed panels, and a hood-mould formed by the string-course; the window-sill is splayed; at the apex of the arch are the remains of a canopy, its niche filled in. In the second stage there are windows of two trefoil lights with square heads and hood-moulds. The belfry windows are arranged in pairs on the west and south faces, and single on the north and east. They are deeply recessed, with pointed arches, of two trefoil lights and quatrefoil piercings, panelled below the sills, on the west side with square quatrefoil panels over trefoiled panels, on the three remaining sides the quatrefoils are omitted, the sills resting on the trefoiled panels; they all have hood-moulds with traces of stops, and on the north and east carved heads in the centre of the jambs. On the south side there is a stair-turret in the junction of the tower with its eastern diagonal buttress, and it is carried up to form a battlemented turret. It has two loop-lights in the lower stage and two in the second, and string-courses, one in the first stage and two in the second. Over the north light of

the belfry window, on the west side, there is a quatrefoil opening in the band of quatrefoil panels with a trefoil canopy and the base of a pinnacle. The upper stage has been patched with light-coloured stone and the parapet is a modern restoration.

The chancel (31 ft. 4 in. by 16 ft. 11 in.) has a wood-block floor to the altar with three steps, the rest paved with light and dark lozenge-shaped stone paving. On the south towards the east there is a double piscina, with cross divisions to the basins, in a modern trefoil-headed recess, with a hood-mould. The traceried window has a pointed rear-arch with hood-mould and wide splayed jambs; the low-side window has a moulded segmental-pointed rear-arch, the mouldings dying out on splayed jambs. On the north side close to the east wall there is a small modern recess with a moulded wood frame and label moulding. The modern arcade has two bays of moulded pointed arches of two orders, decorated with paterae, supported on a pier of six half-shafts, with moulded capitals and bases, the responds being formed of half-piers.

The nave (45 ft. 2 in. by 16 ft. 8 in.) has plastered walls and an open queen-post roof with curved struts on moulded corbels. The south arcade consists of three bays of pointed arches of two splayed orders, resting on rather slender octagonal pillars with moulded capitals, the top member battlemented and, to the east pillar only, ball-flowers in the hollow moulding. Their bases rest without mouldings on square 13th-century bases with stopped splayed corners for pillars of a larger diameter. At the east end the arch splays are continued as a respond without capitals and finish on a mutilated 13th-century base; the western arch is supported on a mutilated carved corbel. The north arcade is similar, except that the battlements and ball-flowers have been omitted from the capitals and the pillars made 2 ft. shorter. The chancel arch is pointed, of two splayed orders, the inner supported on carved corbels formed by cutting away the responds and carving the stone below the capitals. At the junction of the arcade with the chancel there are carved heads on either side, probably the stops of a destroyed hood-mould to the arcade arches. The pointed tower arch is very lofty, of two splays to the nave and four to the tower, supported on half-octagon responds with moulded capitals, the responds decorated on the nave side with a series of trefoil-headed panels, all made out with cement, but probably roughly following the original. On the south side of the arch there is a narrow doorway with a moulded pointed arch to the tower staircase.

The pulpit is a modern one of stone, octagonal, trefoiled panels on each face, on an octagonal stem.

The south aisle (40 ft. 4 in. by 14 ft. 8 in.) has a flat ceiling of wood panels under a steep-pitched roof. The windows have stop-chamfered pointed rear-arches to splayed recesses. A string-course at the level of the window-sills has been cut away except to the sills. At the east end of the south wall there is a much-mutilated piscina with a fluted basin, with a trefoil ogee head and traces of a hood-mould. This end of the arcade is now used as a chapel. The doorway to the vestry is modern with a segmental head.

The north aisle (40 ft. 6 in. by 11 ft. 10 in.) has a ceiling similar to the south aisle. The windows have segmental-pointed rear-arches with wide splayed reveals, hood-moulds with defaced stops, and a string-course at sill level. The doorway has a modern rear-arch similar to the vestry. At the eastern end of the

south wall there are two square aumbries, which once had doors with locks. Against the east respond of the arcade is a mutilated piscina with a trefoiled head and an hexagonal basin, probably left in its original position when the church was rebuilt. The east wall of the aisle has been removed for a modern arch giving access to the modern chancel aisle. Parts of the reveals and rear-arches to the windows and door are originals re-used. The eastern end is occupied by the organ, obscuring the east window. It has an open steep-pitched roof and a wood-block floor. Under the arch from the aisle there is an early-17th-century carved oak chest with a panelled lid. Over the north door there is a marble wall-memorial to Thomas Newcomb, 'servant of his Late Majesty King Charles II in the Printing Office', who died 1681.

The tower (11 ft. 10 in. by 11 ft. 6 in.) is paved with light and dark stone paving, the walls are rendered with cement with scratched masonry joints. The angles of the west wall have been splayed and panelled in cement to match the tower arch, the window and door recesses and the soffits of the arches are also panelled in cement, probably roughly following the original work. The ceiling is a modern plaster vaulting springing from moulded plaster corbels. The font, which stands in the centre of the tower, is an octagonal stone one dated 1848, with trefoiled panels on each face. On the north wall there is a V-shaped framed wooden panel with the following painted inscription:

Here lyeth ye body of Margarit Hixon, Daughter to Thomas Manley, of Manley in ye County of Chester Esq. & wife to Thomas Hixon of Greenwch in ye County of Kent Esq. who lyeth there intomed w<sup>th</sup> the inscription of these titles on his Monument M<sup>r</sup> of Arts Oxon. souldier under Henry ye 4th, King of France, Gentleman of the Bedchamber to Queen Elizabeth, Yeoman of ye removing Wardrop, keeper of the Standing Wardrop & privy Lodgings at Greenwch to Queen Elizabeth and King James, viz. which husband, Thomas Hixon shee had 5 sonnes, viz. Robert, Humphrey, Thomas, John & William: also 3 Daughters, viz. Elizabeth, Margarit & Katherine. Shee departed y<sup>e</sup> 8th daye 1632.

At the top of this inscription there is a coat of arms with crests on either side, left Hixon, right Manley.

The plate consists of a silver flagon, two silver chalices, and two silver patens.

There are five bells by Joseph Smith, 1724, and one by John Briant, 1792.<sup>61</sup>

The registers begin 1538. The earlier entries were transcribed in 1662 by Simon Hawkhurst, B.D.<sup>61a</sup>

There was a priest at Dunchurch *ADFOVSON* in 1086.<sup>62</sup> The church was appropriated to Pipewell Abbey by Bishop Richard Peche in the reign of Henry II,<sup>63</sup> and the vicarage endowed by Bishop Stavensby in 1229, when £10 yearly was reserved to be paid to the Cathedral of Lichfield.<sup>64</sup> In 1247 the advowson was granted by John de Dunheved and Christian his wife to the Abbot of Pipewell, the concord being made in the presence of Roger (Weseham), Bishop of Chester, and the dean and chapter of Lichfield, who acknowledged that they had no right to the advowson.<sup>65</sup> Presentations were, however, made by the Bishops of Chester, Coventry, and Lichfield from 1329 onwards,<sup>66</sup> and the advowson has ever since remained in the hands of the diocesan bishop.

The value of the church in 1291 was £10, plus the £10 payable to the dean and chapter of Lichfield (see above);<sup>67</sup> in 1535 the vicarage was worth £14 1s. 10d., plus 8s. for procurations and synodals,<sup>68</sup> and the rectory was farmed at £16 10s.,<sup>69</sup> out of which the £10 was still payable to Lichfield.<sup>70</sup>

In 1360 Bishop Stretton of Lichfield granted licence for 2 years to the inhabitants of Thurlaston, at the instance of William de Petton, that divine service should be celebrated in the chapel there.<sup>71</sup> This chapel is not mentioned in the *Taxatio* or the *Valor*, but according to Dugdale it existed till about 1562, when it was pulled down by Lord Berkeley's officers.<sup>72</sup>

Thomas Newcombe, by will dated *CHARITIES* 2 March 1690, gave to trustees £600 upon trust to purchase some ground as near to the church and to the open street of Dunchurch as they could, and thereupon to build six almshouses for as many poor men or widows being born in and inhabitants of the parish; and he desired that the rest of the money after finishing the almshouses should be laid out in the purchase of land, and the rents and profits thereof be yearly divided among the said almshouse people equally.

John Spier, by will dated 30 March 1618, gave to his executors £100 to be set forth upon good security to the use of the poor of the parishes of Dunchurch and Newbold.

The above-mentioned charities are regulated by schemes of the Charity Commissioners dated 8 September 1911 and 9 March 1934. The annual income amounts to £64 9s. 4d.

Church Land. By the award under the Dunchurch Inclosure Act, 1709, 2½ acres of land were awarded to the churchwardens, and the income used to be carried to the general account of the church rates. The land was sold in 1930 and the proceeds of sale invested. The annual income of the charity amounts to £17 11s. 4d.

Poor's Land. By the same award 20 acres of land were awarded to this parish.

The charity is regulated by schemes of the Charity Commissioners dated 22 November 1861 and 31 July 1934. The scheme of 1861 appoints trustees to administer the charity and directs that the yearly income of the charity, which amounts to £190 approximately, shall be applied either in gifts of coal or in the purchase of coals to be re-sold by the trustees at a reduced price to deserving poor persons resident in the parish.

William Smith. This parish participates in the charity of William Smith and receives 4s. per annum which, in accordance with the terms of the bequest, is required to be distributed in bread to the poorest people of the parish. For particulars of the charity see under parish of Bilton.

William Fawkes. It is stated in an old will-book that William Fawkes gave 40s. to be distributed on St. Thomas's day to such poor men and women of this parish as the minister and churchwardens should think fit; and a note adds that the payment was charged on lands in Grandborough.

Church Land (Thurlaston). By an award dated 20 April 1728 it was determined that a plot of land

<sup>61</sup> Tilley and Walters, *Church Bells of Warwick*, 152. For a suit by William and Thomas Clibury against Henry Bromfield concerning payment for recasting some of the church bells see Chan. Proc. Ser. 1, Jas. I, C. 15, no. 16.

<sup>61a</sup> Note on flyleaf of first volume: *ex inf.* the vicar of Dunchurch.

<sup>62</sup> *F.C.H. Warwick*, i, 338.

<sup>63</sup> Dugd. 284, quoting Reg. Pipewell, fol. 61b.

<sup>64</sup> *Ibid.* fol. 63a.

<sup>65</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xi), 643.

<sup>66</sup> Dugd. 284.

<sup>67</sup> *Tax. Ecd.* (Rec. Com.), 241.

<sup>68</sup> *Valor Ecd.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 63.

<sup>69</sup> *Ibid.* iv, 295.

<sup>70</sup> *Ibid.* 296.

<sup>71</sup> *Wm. Salt Soc.* N.S. viii, 6.

<sup>72</sup> Dugd. 288.

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containing 8 a. c. r. 24 p. laid out in lieu of the Church Land and the tithes yearly issuing thereupon and the rents and profits should be employed for the same purposes as the Church Land was theretofore used. The land was sold in 1891 and the proceeds of sale invested. The income thereon, amounting to £15 12s. 4d., is remitted to the vicar and churchwardens of Dunchurch, the trustees of the charity, for the purposes of the trusts.

Poor's Land. By the same award it was determined that a plot of land containing 43 acres and all tithes issuing thereupon and the rents and profits thereof should be employed as the churchwardens and overseers of the poor should think proper, for providing

fuel in winter for the poor of the town of Thurlaston; and the said poor inhabitants were to have free liberty to cut bushes from the land as often as they should have occasion for the same.

The charity is now regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 13 January 1865. The annual income of the charity amounts to £65 approximately.

Dunchurch and Thurlaston Branch of the National Federation of Women's Institutes. By an indenture dated 29 July 1925 the Rt. Hon. Samuel James, Baron Waring, conveyed to trustees the village hall and two cottages and other property in Dunchurch upon trust for the purposes of an institution to be so known.

### EXHALL

Acreage: 2,047.

Population: 1911, 1,646; 1921, 2,281; 1931, 4,426.

As a civil parish Exhall has been extinguished; certain detached portions were amalgamated with Foleshill in 1885; by the Coventry Extension Act of 1931 part was included in the City and County Borough of Coventry, and in 1932 it was transferred to the parish of Bedworth.<sup>1</sup> Like other parishes in the neighbourhood it seems to have had no main village, but a number of hamlets, such as Newland, Ash Green, Exhall Hall Green, and Neale's Green. In recent years the development of coal-mining and brick-works has led to much building of small houses, especially along the Bedworth Road and at Ash Green and Goodyers End. The coal-mines in this parish have been worked from at least the beginning of the 17th century.<sup>2</sup>

The bounds of the parish as set out in 1411<sup>3</sup> seem to have remained unchanged until the 19th century. They begin on the west in the neighbourhood of Grove Lane (which marks the site of Corleygrove, adjoining the park of Newland): from the corner of Newland by the ditch of the hospital of St. John called Corlehay to Corlebroke (now Breach Brook), so to the sluice of the mill of Smerecote (in Bedworth), by the hedge and ditch called Rowdech to Cattescroftelane (now Goodyers End Lane), to Little Heath, to the gate of the rectory of Bedworth, to the Downebroke. Then follow several lost landmarks, but 'the ditch between the Hay and Sydenhalewode' is evidently Little Sydnall Lane, and there is a reference to the boundary crossing the highroad from Coventry to Nuneaton. This road runs through the eastern portion of the parish, the extremity of which still farther east is crossed by the railway and the Coventry Canal; Longford and Exhall Station is just outside, but Hawkesbury Lane Station is just within the parish.

Newland Hall Farm, west of Ash Green, was formerly the manor-house of the Coventry Priory estate. Just to the south and east of the house a depression, now mostly drained of water, probably marks the site of fish ponds; there is no evidence of its having been part of a moat. The depression is crossed by a causeway some 50 yds. long where large stumps of recently felled trees suggest an avenue; and its grass banks are broken by ancient sandstone retaining walls of varying height.<sup>4</sup>

The house consists of a main block facing south and

one running northwards from the north-eastern angle. The former is three-storied, with tall gables, and the latter two-storied, carrying a hipped roof. Both roofs are of tile and the eaves run at nearly the same level; their walls are of red and grey sandstone up to eaves-level, except the whole of the west gable end, a portion of the main north wall, and the upper part of the east gable, which are of 18th-century brickwork. The stonework appears to be uniformly of the 15th century. The wing has a small extension to the north, one story in height, with a gabled roof stopping against its north wall: this is timber-framed and of the late 16th century. The roofing tiles are modern and the chimney-stacks appear to have been rebuilt in the 18th century.

There are two entrances; one is on the west side of the wing; the other, in the southern half of the main eastern gable-end, has square jambs and a square lintelled head. The door is of heavy studded oak set within an oak frame and threshold, and is probably of the 16th century; it is held by two wrought-iron strap-hinges. This doorway and the adjacent window in the end of the main block have label-moulds; the two windows of the north wing have never had label-moulds: all three windows have lost their mullions. Those in the wing have a single chamfered order, and that alongside the doorway has two such orders. At first-floor level, at even intervals across the width of the main block, are four stone corbel heads, early-17th-century in character and probably incorporated from another building in the 18th-century renovation. Lighting the two floors above are two 18th-century casements set in brickwork, and over each ground-floor window in the north wing is another casement. Only the main block stands upon a plinth.

In the south wall there are four windows—with three at ground-floor level; that to the east is four-light, the others two-light, and all have mullions and label-moulds. The westernmost window is blocked with brickwork and occurs so close to the west corner that the 15th-century walls evidently continued beyond the present 18th-century gable-end. A heavy oak wall-plate, 7 in. deep, is exposed at the eaves, and three anchorages can be seen, consisting of ancient wrought-iron dogs and straps, where roof trusses occur.<sup>5</sup> The chamfered plinth continues along the south wall but returns downward near the western corner, and a plain stone plinth, one course higher than the other, runs

<sup>1</sup> Kelly, *Directory of Warwick*, (1936).

<sup>2</sup> e.g. *Cal. S. P. Dom.* 1619-23, p. 450;

Feet of F. Div. Cos. Trin. 20 Jas. I. Cf. *V.C.H. Warwick*, ii, 222,

<sup>3</sup> Exch. K. R. Misc. Bks., 21, fol. 18.

<sup>4</sup> The occupier mentioned a bridge of some sort having been here until fairly recently.

<sup>5</sup> The spacing suggests two more trusses towards the west; making five in all.

along the foot of the west gable brick wall, in which the windows are of the 18th century.

The west side of the north wing is of massive ancient stonework, except for 18 in. where it joins the main block; this is of brick, with a straight joint between the stone and the brickwork. Close to this angle is the entrance referred to above; the heavy oak frame and the door, of which the outer face is of very heavy oak boards spiked onto vertical and horizontal oak bars, appear to be of the 15th century.

The timber-framed gable of the north extension is filled with brick nogging and the walls below are of brick and stone bonded together.

The whole of the interior was replanned in the 18th century and the plain staircases are probably of this date, but the original 15th-century roof trusses have been left in position and are well preserved. The main tie-beams occur at second-floor level and upper collar-beams at the level of the second-floor ceiling, which conceals the upper framework. The exposed beams are chamfered, and ancient wrought-iron straps strengthen the joints.

The eastern entrance door gives access to a kitchen, with a large angle-nook and heavy oak beams supporting the wall over this opening and carrying the floor joists; these are treated with stopped chamfers. The room in the north wing has 16th-century doors, lightly framed in oak with linen-fold panels.

On the first floor the only room of interest is that arranged in the east gable, spanning its full width. Its walls are panelled in moulded oak, the panels being small and plain, of the early 17th century. The east and south walls have panelled dados only, but the north wall is panelled to its full height and has a contemporary fire-place and surround, the overmantel being treated with three main Doric fluted pilasters, having finely moulded caps and bases; between them are smaller pilasters which may once have supported enriched semicircular-headed panels.

Black Horse Road crosses the Coventry-Bedworth main road and then runs south-west, passing the Moat House, which is modern and surrounded by woodland, on the west side. Farther along, on the same side, is Manor House Farm. It is mainly of 18th-century brick and tile construction, but the rear façade (west side) belongs to the 17th century. It is divided into two bays by means of three fluted Doric pilasters, which stand on pedestals each supporting a triglyph, but the cornice over has been removed. These features are of brown sandstone, and except for a stone plinth and string-course the remainder is of brick with sash windows of a later date. The whole appears to constitute a central entrance bay and a south wing, slightly recessed, the balancing wing to the north having been demolished. The original centre door architrave remains, with two flanking Doric columns supporting blocks of entablature and a segmented pediment.

A quarter of a mile to the north of Moat House a by-road runs west past a field on the north side which contains a conspicuously large ash tree raised on a slight mound and protected by iron railings. A track across the same field leads to High Ash Farm, the north wing of which is timber-framed and of the 16th century. Just to the east of the farm are the remains of a circular brick windmill of 18th-century type.

Farther west the road slopes down to join another

from the parish church, at Exhall Hall, now divided into three tenements. The plan of the house is L-shaped, with a large projecting gable-end on the south end of the west side, about 25 ft. wide. It is two stories in height, with attics in the tiled roof. From the west a short track crosses a moat surrounding the house by a bridge with modern stone parapets and an arch of 18th-century brickwork. Here the moat is 25 ft. wide and runs parallel with the house, 10 ft. clear of the gable-end. The latter has been stuccoed and the openings are modern, but the timber-framed construction is evident on account of the gable projecting 2 ft. 6 in. Two heavy oak corner-posts are exposed with their feet at first-floor level, rising about 13 ft. to the eaves; octagonal shafting is worked on their face up to two-thirds of their height, where a moulded oak capital carries chamfered brackets which support the ends of an overhanging beam. This, though decayed, still carries moulded top and bottom edges, the former cambered. The soffit is coved in plaster, and this curves down to meet two more exposed beams embedded along the top of the lower wall-surface; they are each about 5 ft. in length and there is a gap in the centre, and each is treated with embattled cresting.

The main block is raised upon a plain stone plinth and the wall above is of 18th-century brickwork, with two dormer windows in the roof. The moat is rectangular and passes fairly close<sup>6</sup> by the south side, where the eaves-line runs back from the base of the timber-framed gable. This façade is entirely modernized, but there are three more vertical oak posts (all plain) exposed above first-floor level, the length being divided into three bays. The east and north sides have been modernized.

The interior of the house at the time of its conversion into tenements contained moulded oak beams and open fireplaces,<sup>7</sup> but these features are no longer visible. Some ancient panelling then found lining the rafters over the timber-framed roof has been removed to The Grove. Some of these panels show slight traces of human figures of medieval character and may have formed part of a church screen. Others are 16th-century linen-fold panels, of which the longest bears also a shield charged with a merchant's mark and the initials J N, probably for Julian Nethermyll, merchant of Coventry, who bought the manor in 1535 (see below), or perhaps his son John.

There are many yew trees on the banks of the moat to the north and east. To the south-west lies the farmyard, one side of which is occupied by a long 16th-century timber-framed barn.

The road running south through Ash Green passes on to Neal's Green, where tracks lead west to Exhall House and east to Exhall Grange; the former is an 18th-century residence and the latter is chiefly of the same century and mainly of brick, but part of its length is plastered over and is probably constructed in 16th-century timber.

EXHALL is not individually mentioned *MANORS* in Domesday; it probably formed part of the lands of the Countess Godiva, being included in the 9 hides of Ansty and Foleshill,<sup>8</sup> as, like most of her estates, Exhall passed to the Earls of Chester, and in the reign of Stephen Ranulf, Earl of Chester, granted a portion of wood and waste in Exhall and Keresley estimated at 280 acres to Coventry priory.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>6</sup> About 20 ft. clear; the moat is about 40 ft. wide here.

<sup>7</sup> Information from the owner, Mr. H. W. Startin, of The Grove, Exhall.

<sup>8</sup> *V.C.H. Warwick*, 309-10; Dugd. 124.

<sup>9</sup> *Cal. Chart. R.*, v, 104.



# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

On the death in 1232 of the grandson of the above, another Ranulf, his estates were divided amongst his four sisters,<sup>10</sup> Exhall coming to Mabel, wife of William, Earl of Arundel, whose son Hugh d'Aubigny held half a knight's fee in chief in Exhall in 1235-6.<sup>11</sup> In 1243 this half fee, then held by Maurice le Butillier, was assigned to Isabel, Hugh's widow, in dower.<sup>12</sup> She survived till 1282, and in 1275 Exhall is again recorded as part of the honor of Chester, being at that date among the knights' fees held of the manor of Coventry of the honor by Robert de Monhaut (*Monte Alto*) sometime steward of Chester.<sup>13</sup> In 1303 another Robert de Monhaut was in trouble for breaking into the several closes of the Prior of Coventry at Exhall and Newland with a multitude of armed men, carrying away deer and assaulting his servants.<sup>14</sup> Robert de Morlee, his kinsman and heir, made an indenture with Isabelle, queen of Edward II, which was confirmed in 1335 after he had come into his estates,<sup>15</sup> whereby he exchanged, for the manor of Framsen (Suffolk), various rents and services including those due from James Daudeleye in Exhall.<sup>16</sup> The holding of the latter, including a portion in Foleshill, was reckoned as half a knight's fee in 1275.<sup>17</sup> The earldom of Chester had been annexed to the Crown in 1265 and became the appanage of the heir apparent. The manor thus was held of the Crown in 1416,<sup>18</sup> there being at that time no heir apparent, but in 1542 it was stated to be held of Prince Edward as of his manor of Cheylesmore, parcel of the Duchy of Cornwall.<sup>19</sup> In 1549 Edward VI granted Cheylesmore to the Earl of Warwick,<sup>20</sup> who immediately leased it to the corporation of Coventry. They were confirmed in possession in 1568,<sup>21</sup> and were thus the chief lords of Exhall the last time an overlord is mentioned (1575).<sup>22</sup>

The tenants of Exhall manor from 1243<sup>23</sup> were the Butler or Boteler family of Warrington (Lancs.), their holding in Exhall being reckoned as half a knight's fee then and in 1275.<sup>24</sup> William le Boteler was granted free warren in his demesne lands in Exhall and elsewhere in 1285.<sup>25</sup> In the same year he was involved with William Charnels of Bedworth in a dispute over common pasture in their respective manors, and quitclaimed all right of pasture in Bedworth in return for a similar undertaking by Charnels regarding Exhall, together with a grant of 2 acres in Exhall given to Charnels by Roger de Craft.<sup>26</sup> In 1314 the manor was leased by William le Boteler and Sybil his wife to Ralph de la Chaumbre,<sup>27</sup> and in 1340 was settled on Richard, William's grandson,<sup>28</sup> and his wife Joan, in tail, with contingent remainders to John his brother (and eventual heir) in tail, and the right heirs of William their father.<sup>29</sup> The Botelers continued in possession for nearly 200 years more,<sup>30</sup> the manor being finally dis-

posed of in 1535 by Sir Thomas Butler and Baldwin Porter to Julian Nethermyll, draper and alderman of Coventry, Christopher Wareyn, and Richard Humphrey.<sup>31</sup> Julian died seised of Exhall manor, with lands



BUTLER. Azure a bend between six covered cups or.



NETHERMYLL. Argent a chevron between three crescents azure.

in Exhall, Foleshill, and Keresley, in 1539, when his son John was 24.<sup>32</sup> The latter also became an alderman of Coventry<sup>33</sup> and was succeeded by his son, another John, who, in 1605, leased the manor to Richard Chamberlayne and Henry Crofts.<sup>34</sup> A third John Nethermyll, great-grandson of Julian, sold it to Sir John Garrard, alderman of London,<sup>35</sup> some time before 1621, when the son of the latter, on whom he had settled the manor,<sup>36</sup> leased it to Joseph Galliard and Thomas Meek.<sup>37</sup> The younger John Garrard, who became a baronet in 1622,<sup>38</sup> settled the manor on his wife and eldest son, and died in 1637.<sup>39</sup> Soon after this the Garrards, whose main seat was in Wheathampstead (Herts.), must have parted with Exhall, which in 1650 was conveyed by George Dyer, junior, and Edith his wife to William Dyer.<sup>40</sup> Later it passed to Sir Arthur Cayley,<sup>41</sup> who was patron of the living between 1662 and 1686.<sup>42</sup> He is styled 'of Newland in the County of the City of Coventry',<sup>43</sup> so that at this period the former monastic lands in Exhall, which had had an independent manorial existence under the name of Newland since the 14th century, may have become reunited to Exhall proper. Cayley's daughter and heiress Mary married Sir Samuel Marow, bart. of Berkswell, who was lord for a short time before his death in or before 1699.<sup>44</sup> He or his widow sold the manor 'about thirty years ago' (i.e. circa 1700) to William Cheslin, whose son George was lord in 1730.<sup>45</sup> In 1755 there was a conveyance of Exhall manor between Thomas and Martha Rollinson and John Williamson,<sup>46</sup> and in 1769 Charles Vere of London was lord.<sup>47</sup> He and Martha Vere conveyed it in 1789 to Henry Boulton and others.<sup>48</sup> Latterly the manor has been in the hands of the Startin family, George Startin being lord in 1850<sup>49</sup> and Mr. H. W. Startin in 1936 and later.<sup>50</sup>

The lands of Coventry cathedral priory in Exhall,

<sup>10</sup> G. E. C. *Compl. Peerage* (2nd ed.), iii, 168-9.

<sup>11</sup> *Book of Fees*, 510, 515.

<sup>12</sup> *Cal. Close*, 1242-7, p. 116.

<sup>13</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ii, 128 (p. 83). Robert was the son of Cecily, one of Hugh d'Aubigny's sisters and coheirresses.

<sup>14</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1301-7, pp. 188-9.

<sup>15</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* vii, 471 (p. 336).

<sup>16</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1334-8, p. 130.

<sup>17</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ii, 128 (p. 84).

<sup>18</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 3 Hen. V, no. 25.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.* (Ser. 2), lxx, 16.

<sup>20</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1549-51, p. 2.

<sup>21</sup> *Pat. 10 Eliz.* pt. 7.

<sup>22</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), clxx, 14.

<sup>23</sup> *Cal. Close*, 1242-7, p. 116.

<sup>24</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ii, 128 (p. 83).

<sup>25</sup> *Cal. Chart. R.* ii, 326.

<sup>26</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xv), 1032.

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid.* 1412.

<sup>28</sup> *Baines, Hist. Lancs.* iii, 660.

<sup>29</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xv), 1874.

<sup>30</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 3 Hen. V, no. 25;

<sup>31</sup> *Hen. VI*, no. 29.

<sup>32</sup> *Feet of F. Div. Cos. East.* 27 Hen.

VIII.

<sup>33</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), lxx, 16.

<sup>34</sup> *Ibid.* clxx, 14.

<sup>35</sup> *Feet of F. Div. Cos. East.* 3 Jas. I.

<sup>36</sup> *Dugd.* 124.

<sup>37</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cccxcvii,

142.

<sup>38</sup> *Feet of F. Div. Cos. Trin.* 19 Jas. I.

<sup>39</sup> G. E. C. *Compl. Baronage*, i, 188.

<sup>40</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cccclxxiv,

149.

<sup>41</sup> *Feet of F. Warw. Hist.* 1650.

<sup>42</sup> *Dugd.* 124.

<sup>43</sup> *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.)

<sup>44</sup> e.g. *Vint. Warw.* 1682-3 (Harl. Soc.

liii), 231.

<sup>45</sup> G. E. C. *Compl. Baronage*, iv, 110.

<sup>46</sup> *Dugd.* 124.

<sup>47</sup> *Feet of F. Cov. Trin.* 28-9 Geo. II.

<sup>48</sup> *Gamekeepers' Deputations*, Shire

Hall, Warwick.

<sup>49</sup> *Feet of F. Cov. Trin.* 29 Geo. III.

<sup>50</sup> White, *Directory Warw.* (1850),

580.

<sup>51</sup> Kelly, *Directory Warw.* (1936).



consisting originally of the 280 acres of waste, lying between the Breach Brook and the road from Coventry to Astley, granted by Ranulf, Earl of Chester, in the 12th century, in lieu of the right to take wood daily in his woodlands, which he had previously granted them,<sup>51</sup> were considerably enlarged at various times. Licences to alienate Exhall property in mortmain to this monastery were granted in 1349<sup>52</sup> and 1369.<sup>53</sup> In 1332 the prior had received licence to impark 246 acres of waste and wood in the manor of NEWLAND,<sup>54</sup> and in 1535 the total value of the Coventry monastic estates in Exhall was £8 9s. 9d.<sup>55</sup> After the Dissolution they were granted out in the first instance in small lots. Richard Andrewes and Leonard Chamberleyne of Woodstock (Oxon.) were granted a wood called Calverley, in the tenancy of Henry Waver, in 1542,<sup>56</sup> and William Pulteney of Exhall received a 21-year lease of lands in 1544.<sup>57</sup> In 1542 Michael Cameswell obtained a confirmation of the lease of chambers, &c., in Newland mansion granted to him by Thomas Cameswell the last prior in 1538.<sup>58</sup> The freehold of this house was granted in 1544 to John Wade and Thomas Gregorye.<sup>59</sup> In 1553 the manor of Exhall lately held by Coventry priory and all possessions of that priory in Exhall except the rectory and advowson were granted to Thomas Browne and William Breton of London,<sup>60</sup> who in the same year received licence to alienate them to Michael Cameswell, Elizabeth his wife, and their heirs.<sup>61</sup> Cameswell, with Peter Temple of Burton Dassett, was confirmed in possession in 1557,<sup>62</sup> when the annual value was £13. Two years later Cameswell had licence to alienate his manors of Newland and Exhall, with all the lands appertaining, to Stephen Hales.<sup>63</sup> His grandson, another Stephen, who died in 1624,<sup>64</sup> was involved with Humphrey Fenn, one of his tenants, in lawsuits over property.<sup>65</sup> His son Charles was vouchee in a recovery of the manor in 1627,<sup>66</sup> and Charles's son Stephen was lord in Dugdale's time (1640).<sup>67</sup> In the latter half of the 17th century this manor or manors (Newland and Exhall being mentioned separately from 1559 onwards) became reunited with the non-monastic manor of Exhall (q.v.) in the hands of Sir Arthur Cayley, who had married the widow of Charles Hales,<sup>68</sup> but in 1695 Francis Fisher, younger son of Thomas Fisher who was the second husband of Mary (daughter and heir of Sir Arthur Cayley), widow of Sir Samuel Marow, was concerned in a recovery of Newland manor without mention of that of Exhall,<sup>69</sup> and John Knightley or Wightwick, who had married the elder daughter of Sir Samuel, similarly in 1709.<sup>70</sup> In 1730 Elizabeth, Sir Samuel's second daughter, was lady of the manor of Newland,<sup>71</sup> Exhall being by this time in other hands. The manor of Exhall of which John Wightwick was lord in 1789<sup>72</sup> was probably this one, Exhall proper having been conveyed by other parties in the same year. Newland was considered as a

separate manor as late as 1850, when Benjamin Parker was lord.<sup>73</sup>

The Carthusians of Coventry held land in Exhall. In 1544 their property, including a grove called Robyns Grove in the tenancy of Julian Nethermyll (lord of Exhall manor), was granted to John Burges and Edward Wotton, doctors in medicine, of London.<sup>74</sup> In 1546 it was regranted to Edward Watson of Rockingham and Henry Herdson, skinner, of London.<sup>75</sup>

The church of ST. GILES is situated CHURCH in the centre of the parish where the road from Bedworth Heath forks to Ash Green on the west and Neals Green to the south, and is skirted on the south-west side by Breach Brook. It consists of a square-ended chancel with vestry attached on the north side, nave, north and south aisles, and western tower; there is a small south porch. The nave contains three bays, and two timber roof trusses divide the chancel into three bays.

The nave and chancel appear to originate from the 13th century,<sup>76</sup> although the nave has been rebuilt in modern times, when extensive restorations were carried out to the chancel also. The tower appears to have been added in the 14th century, and subsequent additions have been recorded on a tablet under the window of the west wall of the north aisle which states that the north aisle was added in 1609 'as the burial place of the Hales family', the south aisle in 1842, and the vestry, with an extension of the north aisle, in 1885.

The chancel is mainly of the 14th century (early?), and the exterior face of the north wall is covered by the vestry, except for a narrow unpierced bay to the east, which is bounded by a buttress on the west side against which the vestry gable is built. All the plain wall-surfaces are plastered, leaving only the red sandstone of the buttresses, surrounds to the openings, parapets, &c. The eastern gable has two diagonal buttresses at the angles, each with two offsets, above which project carved heads supporting the kneelers, which are each weathered and faced with trefoiled gablets having moulded ridges; a modern cross stands upon the apex stone. The east window is original and consists of a two-centred lancet-shaped head with a hood-mould terminating in heads inclined inwards. It is divided into three lights and the tracery, concentric with the head, has no cusping. The jambs are of two chamfered orders, which return along the sill. The south wall has one intermediate buttress of two offsets. Immediately to the west of the buttress is a small doorway of a single chamfered order and with a two-centred head and hood-mould with head-stops. It contains an 18th-century door with contemporary wrought-iron latch. West of it is a small window with a lancet-shaped head and chamfered jambs, 3 ft. high and 11 in. wide. To the east of the buttress is one window of two chamfered orders containing a single light; the two-centred head

<sup>51</sup> Exch. K.R. Misc. Bks. 21, fol. 12, 76v.: *Cal. Chart. R. v.* 104. The land was in fact considerably more than 280 acres as it was measured by the woodland perch of 25 ft.

<sup>52</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1348-50, p. 326.

<sup>53</sup> *Ibid.* 1367-70, p. 255.

<sup>54</sup> *Ibid.* 1330-4, p. 361. The actual park in the early 15th century contained 80 acres: Exch. K.R. Misc. Bks. 21, fol. 12. William Butler, c. 1300, held from the priory waste at Appeltrethorne in return for which he renounced rights of common on other lands, except that 10 acres in

front of his manor should be common for his tenants and those of the priory: *ibid.* fol. 17v.

<sup>55</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 49.

<sup>56</sup> *L. & P. Hen. VIII*, xviii, 443 (39, para. 16).

<sup>57</sup> *Ibid.* (1), p. 679.

<sup>58</sup> *Ibid.* xviii (1), p. 550.

<sup>59</sup> *Ibid.* xix (2), 800 (13).

<sup>60</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1553, p. 158.

<sup>61</sup> *Ibid.* pp. 272-3.

<sup>62</sup> *Ibid.* 1557-8, pp. 216-17.

<sup>63</sup> *Ibid.* 1558-60, p. 131.

<sup>64</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), ccccxviii,

137.

<sup>65</sup> Chan. Proc. Ser. 1, Jas. I, H. 9, 45.

<sup>66</sup> *Recov. R. Hil.* 2 Chas. I, ro. 22.

<sup>67</sup> Dugd. 125.

<sup>68</sup> *Harl. Soc.* viii, 72.

<sup>69</sup> *Recov. R. Mich.* 7 Wm. III, ro. 226.

<sup>70</sup> *Ibid.* East. 8 Anne, ro. 31.

<sup>71</sup> Dugd. 125.

<sup>72</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations.

<sup>73</sup> White, *Directory Warw.* 580.

<sup>74</sup> *L. & P. Hen. VIII*, xix (2), 800 (11).

<sup>75</sup> *Ibid.* xxi (1), 1383 (89).

<sup>76</sup> There was a church here before 1260: see below.

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with the hood-mould has been recently renewed. All the original work appears contemporary with the east gable except for the small lancet, which must have remained in a portion of early-13th-century walling.

The arcades to north and south of the nave are similar; each is modern and consists of three bays, the piers being octagonal with moulded caps supporting four-centred arches of two chamfered orders, the centre spans being slightly wider than the others. The responds are in the form of half-piers, except that against the south wall of the tower, which has been reduced to accommodate a moulded corbel 12 in. below the abacus for the support of a gallery constructed late in the last century and since removed. The chancel arch also is modern; it is two-centred and of two moulded orders, with a hood-mould stopped on carved heads. The tower arch is of the 14th century and spans the whole of the interior width of the tower, the jambs being square with chamfered angles towards the nave, the two centres of the arch are below the level of the springing, and there are two chamfered orders.

The two distinct periods when the north aisle was built and then extended are evident from the exterior. The tiled roof, with centre ridge, terminates in a west gable of red sandstone with sloping parapet walls and containing a three-light window similar in type to the lower west window of the tower, but the whole is modern with the exception of an inset shield of grey sandstone, protected by a modern drip-mould. It presumably dates from 1609, as it bears the arms of Hales—three arrows, with a molet for difference.

There is a diagonal buttress on the north-west angle, and the north wall is pierced by two windows, forming two bays, the bay to the west being narrower than that to the east. The division is marked by a buttress with two weathered offsets; it is similar to the angle buttress and they are modern, together with the whole of the bay between them. Both windows have three trefoiled lights, with four-centred heads, but that to the east is of 17th-century workmanship with its arched head more depressed, the trefoiled heads contain narrower top lobes, the fillet to the tracery is set out with great freedom of line and not geometrically, and the hood-mould is cut off abruptly at each extremity.

Although both bays are of red sandstone and carry a similar ovolo moulding to support the open eaves, that to the east consists of more irregular masonry. Furthermore the eastern bay carries between the eaves and the apex of the window hood a stone inscribed 'ANŌ DŌNI 1609'. In the corresponding position in the western bay is a stone inscribed 'A.D. 1885'.

There is a similar diagonal buttress on the north-east angle of the aisle, and further to the east the line of the aisle is continued by a modern vestry of lesser proportions. This is entered from the aisle by a modern doorway, of which the head is formed by that of the original 17th-century window. Another modern doorway gives access to the chancel. The vestry is of red sandstone; it has a doorway with a two-centred head on the north side. The north-east angle is marked by a diagonal buttress and a stone chimney-stack from a heating chamber beneath. Below the two-light east window is a large stone inscribed 'Erected A.D. 1885, W. Scott, Vicar . . .', &c. The vestry roof, of tile, is lower than that of the aisle, consequently the gable of the latter rises above it, and displays the Hales shield, as at the west.

The south aisle is modern and is built of rough grey sandstone with a chamfered plinth, buttresses, corbel-table, and surrounds of openings, in red sandstone. It consists of three bays divided by shallow buttresses, set diagonally on the angles. It is roofed with tiles like the nave, with open eaves and plain parapet walls at the gables. The centre bay is occupied by a small modern porch of similar treatment with small single-light windows in each side wall. A two-light window occupies each of the flanking bays, and there is a three-light window in each of the gable walls to west and east. All the windows have two-centred heads and trefoiled lights.

All the floors of the interior are entirely modern.

The tower is constructed in two stages with diagonal buttresses, each having four weathered offsets. The plinth consists of two weathered and moulded offsets (much defaced). The whole is about 55 ft. in height and is built of a cream and grey coloured sandstone which has weathered black in patches. The lower stage contains one glazed opening which is on the western face; it has two chamfered mullions recessed between hollowed jambs. The head is four-centred, and each of the three lights is trefoiled;<sup>77</sup> the hood-mould has simple return-ends. The staircase to the belfry is contained within the south-west angle, and up to the top of the lower stage it is lit by two open chamfered slit lights which pierce the western face. Three other chamfered rectangular lights open to the chamber beneath the belfry, one on each face.

A weathered string-course divides the two stages and stops against the buttresses at their third offset. Between this string on the west face and the head of the window below a carved square block of stone is bonded. It contains a shield, bearing what seems to be a monogram, set within a quatrefoil.

The eastern buttresses of the tower thicken out at their bases to form wide chamfered piers,<sup>78</sup> around which the plinth is returned.

There are four belfry windows—one to each face; they each have two lights and a two-centred head approximating to a semicircle, the lights are trefoiled, and the jamb and head consist of two chamfered orders. The hood-mould has a chamfered underside which returns at the ends to form its own chamfered weathering. The upper offsets to the buttresses line through with the springing level of the belfry windows, and slight diagonal projections build up from them, intersect with the upper string-course, and support small plain pinnacles at the angles, now much decayed. The tower roof is modern and of slate. Rising from the apex is a gilded wrought iron weather vane.

The doorway to the tower stair in the south wall has a two-centred stone head set on chamfered jambs. There is an outer and an inner door, the latter being ancient.

The interior walls of the tower consist of the bare stonework; other walls are mainly plastered. On the wall of the north aisle there are four moulded corbels at a height of 7 ft.; two similar ones are set high at the springing level of the windows; the former evidently supported the gallery referred to above, and the latter may have supported an exposed roof truss, now removed. Two arched recesses, one in the west wall of each aisle, situated against the line of the nave arcades, mark the positions of staircases to the galleries. Similar corbels are ranged along the wall of the south aisle for the support of a gallery.

<sup>77</sup> The tracery appears to have been renewed.

<sup>78</sup> Evidently for the purpose of providing sufficient abutment to the tower arch.

All the glazing is modern, and many of the windows, including those in the chancel, have stained glass. The east window of the south aisle is filled with plain glass, probably because it is partially obscured by the small modern organ; ranged alongside this is an oak panel forming the First World War memorial.

All the roof construction is modern. The nave is spanned by two roof trusses of the king-post type, but the spaces between the members are divided by chamfered vertical rails. Modern moulded corbels carry each truss by means of a wall-post and bracket. There is an octagonal plaster ceiling springing from a thin plaster moulding above the arcades. Both aisles have octagonal plastered ceilings, that above the north aisle has neither exposed trusses nor cornices, but the tie-beams of four trusses are exposed in the south aisle. There are two exposed roof trusses over the chancel, both supported on brackets; they are of the arched-brace type; between them the rafters are exposed, sloping down to an oak moulded cornice. The vestry has a plain octagonal plastered ceiling.

A modern font is placed beneath the tower arch. The oak choir stalls and altar rail, and the gilded oak reredos are all part of the complete modern restoration of the chancel. In the centre of the vestry floor stands an ancient heavy oak table. The top has apparently been made up, but it is fixed to a 16th-century frame. The top horizontal bearers are finely moulded along the base of the vertical face, there are bottom rails similarly moulded, and the four legs are 4 in. square and turned between bearer and bottom rail into baluster shapes without carved enrichment.

A monument of some importance is erected against the centre of the north wall, overlooking the north aisle. It consists of upper and lower panels of black marble, surrounded by a frame in marble of varied lighter colours. It commemorates John Phillips, died 1716, and Mary his wife, died 1762. It is framed by two Corinthian pilasters borne on moulded corbels. Above the moulded cornice there is a plain upper panel surmounted by a broken curved pediment, which leads up to a coat of arms set independently in the wall. The shield bears a lion rampant and above it is a helmet—all of marble.

There is a smaller wall monument reset within the recess at the west end of the south aisle, to James Pickard, died 1757, and Ann his wife, daughter of John Phillips, died 1762.

On the south wall of the tower is a brass tablet which states that 'The three bells and belfrey were restored and rededicated to the Glory of God St. Thomas' Day A.D. 1900'. There are now six bells, all of which were recast round about 1920.

The registers begin in 1540.

Exhall was originally a chapelry of *ADWOWSON* St. Michael, Coventry, being granted therewith to the cathedral priory,<sup>79</sup> and appropriated thereto by Bishop Molend in 1260.<sup>80</sup> The curate serving the chapel was removable at the will of the prior, and received £5 of the small tithes as his stipend in 1535.<sup>81</sup> The church does not seem to have become parochial till after the Restoration; from 1662 to 1747 the advowson was held by the Cayley family or their descendants the Marows.<sup>82</sup> Annabella MacCulloch presented in 1771, and in 1804 and 1805 John Wightwick Knightley,<sup>83</sup> a descendant of the

Marows. His daughter Jane married Lord Guernsey, later Earl of Aylesford, with which family the advowson remained until about 1925, when it was acquired by the Bishop of Coventry, the present patron.

George Bruton by will dated 13 *CHARITIES* May 1926 bequeathed £50 together with the proceeds of sale of his household furniture and other articles to the vicar and churchwardens of Exhall, the interest to be applied for the benefit of the poor of Exhall and in aid of the general church expenses of the parish. The annual income of the charity amounts to £2 9s.

Dinah Duck by will dated 1 January 1932 bequeathed to the churchwardens of Exhall £100, the income to be used for the upkeep of the churchyard. The testatrix also bequeathed the residue of her estate, the income to be expended upon the upkeep of the fabric of the church. The income of the charities amount to £3 11s. 2d. and £89 11s. 4d. respectively.

Emily Neale by will dated 16 July 1934 bequeathed to the vicar and churchwardens of Exhall £100, the income to augment the funds for the annual outing of the choir boys of the church. The income of the charity amounts to £3 7s. 2d.

Miss H. A. Sanders, by will dated 7 January 1936 bequeathed £100, the income, now £3 6s. 10d., to be applied towards the upkeep of the fabric of the church.

William Wilkinson Smart by will dated 2 November 1937 bequeathed £200, the income, now £6 13s. 2d., to be applied in keeping the graveyard of the parish church in good order.

Charlotte Mary Freeman by will dated 25 May 1914 bequeathed £100, the income to be expended upon the maintenance of the churchyard. The testatrix also bequeathed one third part of the residue of her estate, the income to be applied in the maintenance of the fabric of the church or the permanent fittings thereof. The annual income of the charities amount to £2 18s. 4d. and £7 18s. 10d. respectively.

Job Potter by will dated 10 October 1686 charged certain property in Berkswell with the annual payment of the sum of 10s. to the churchwardens of Exhall to be distributed by them amongst poor parishioners on St. Thomas' day. The rentcharge was redeemed in 1947 in consideration of a sum of Consols, producing an annual income of 10s.

William Bentley's Charity for Poor. By a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 19 April 1882 made in the matter of 'William Bentley's Educational and Bread Charities', founded by the will of William Bentley dated 13 July 1808, and 'The Poor's Charity' it was provided that the sum of £3 2s. 6d., part of the net yearly income of the charities, shall be annually expended by the trustees in the purchase of bread or other food which shall be annually distributed amongst deserving and necessitous persons resident in this parish. By an Order of the said Commissioners dated 13 May 1904 it was determined that the whole of the endowment of the charities is held for, or ought to be applied to, educational purposes, with the exception of the said yearly sum of £3 2s. 6d. The Order further provided that the educational endowment and the non-educational endowment respectively shall henceforth constitute a separate Foundation and a separate Charity called respectively the Exhall Educational Foundation and William Bentley's Charity for Poor.

<sup>79</sup> *Cal. Chart. R.* v. 102, 103.

<sup>80</sup> *Reg. Molend.* m. 4.

<sup>81</sup> *Dugd.* 124, quoting MSS. of Sir S. Archer.

<sup>82</sup> *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.).

<sup>83</sup> *Ibid.*

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

## FRANKTON

Acreage: 1,705.

Population: 1911, 211; 1921, 224; 1931, 231.

Frankton is a small parish and village 6 miles south-west of Rugby, the River Leam forming the southern boundary of the parish, where the lowest ground is about 200 ft. above sea-level. The village stands on a well-marked hill of about 360 ft. in the centre of the parish and is very secluded, with no main road through or near it. There are a few timber-framed cottages with red-brick infilling and tiled roofs, and close to the church is a group of 18th-century red-brick houses. Minor roads connect the village with Stretton, Bourton, and Birdingbury, and at its north-west corner the parish reaches within a few hundred yards of the Fosse Way. The Rugby and Leamington branch of the former L.M.S.R. crosses the south-eastern corner of the parish, Birdingbury Station being within its borders, about a mile from Frankton village. Frankton Wood occupies a considerable area in the north-west, and there are several other spinneys, also many ponds, including two large fish-ponds south-west of the village.

Frankton was inclosed in 1656; twenty-two years later, in a lawsuit about the tithes, it was stated that 'two thirds of the former common fields in Frankton now lye in very large pastures, so do all the xii yardland tithable to the plaintiff, but with so very little interruption of knowledge by reason that it lyeth still ridge and furrow'.<sup>1</sup>

**FRANKTON** formed part of the lands **MANORS** granted by Earl Leofric to Coventry Priory on its foundation in 1043, but it is not assigned to this monastery in Domesday Book, when Earl Roger of Shrewsbury held 4 hides less 1 virgate here.<sup>2</sup> There is no trace of any later connexion with Earl Roger's fee, so that Dugdale is probably correct in considering that these lands had been seized by Earl Roger from Coventry Priory,<sup>3</sup> to which they certainly returned, as Leofric's charter was confirmed in 1267,<sup>4</sup> and Frankton was stated to be in the barony of the Prior of Coventry in 1316.<sup>5</sup> Free warren was granted to the prior and convent in 1257.<sup>6</sup> The Coventry Priory estates in Frankton were enlarged by grants of a virgate in 1221<sup>7</sup> and an acre of meadow in 1305.<sup>8</sup> In 1291 they consisted of 3 carucates and a windmill, producing £14 1s. 4d. yearly,<sup>9</sup> and in 1535 a total revenue of £17 11s. 2d.<sup>10</sup> After the Dissolution this manor was kept in Crown hands till 1579–80, when it was granted to Thomas Thornton and Thomas Woodcock.<sup>11</sup> From them it passed to the Temple family,<sup>12</sup> of whom John (died 1603) settled it in 1592 on his younger son John in tail male.<sup>13</sup> The younger John died in 1642, when his son Thomas was

20.<sup>14</sup> Thomas who dealt with the manor in 1662<sup>15</sup> was probably the son of this Thomas.<sup>16</sup> It was finally sold by Richard Temple, the younger Thomas's brother, to Sir Theophilus Biddulph, bart., of Westcombe in Greenwich, in 1680,<sup>17</sup> in whose family it has since remained.

The remaining 1 hide and 1 virgate, completing the Domesday assessment of 5 hides, were held freely before 1066 by Chentwin, and in 1086 by Ralf of the Count of Meulan.<sup>18</sup> In 1166 1 knight's fee was held of the Earl of Warwick by Robert de Frankton *de veteri feffamento*,<sup>19</sup> and a similar amount by William in 1235–6.<sup>20</sup> Half a knight's fee in Frankton and Kenilworth was held of the Earl of Warwick in 1316 by William le Botlier of Oversley,<sup>21</sup> and in 1428 this half-fee was stated to have been formerly held by Henry de Hinton and William le Palmer,<sup>22</sup> two of William le Botlier's subtenants.<sup>23</sup> In a return of the Warwick fees made c. 1320 there were said to be 'many who hold of the same William'; John le Palmer held of Sir R. de Champayne, who held of Ralph Basset, who held of the said William le Botlier; and Palmer himself had as a subtenant William Bordan.<sup>24</sup>

Ralph de Frankton, presumably a descendant of the William mentioned above, passed the manor to Roger de Elinhale, and he to Robert de Okeover, who had married his sister Alice before 1291.<sup>25</sup> Robert and Alice de Okeover in 1310 granted a messuage, 2 virgates of land and 3 acres of meadow, with 3s. 1d. in rents and the advowson of the church, to John le Palmer, subject to 30s. yearly rent during the lifetime of Alice,<sup>26</sup> and John le Palmer and Isabel his wife also obtained a messuage and 2 carucates of land from John Burdoun in 1331.<sup>27</sup> The Palmer family continued in possession of this manor and the advowson till the reign of Henry VI, when they came into the hands of John Hereward, who married Katherine, daughter and heiress of Thomas Palmer.<sup>28</sup> By the early 16th century manor and advowson had come, again by marriage,<sup>29</sup> to the Dukes of Newton Purcell (Oxon.), Richard Duke conceding a presentation to the living to Reynburn Balguy and others in 1529.<sup>30</sup> He or his son Richard conveyed the manor in 1558 to John Eden in trust,<sup>31</sup> with remainder to his son John (died 1565) and his wife Margaret in tail.<sup>32</sup> In 1652 a conveyance of the manor had been made by Roger Duke to Anthony Leson or Leeson.<sup>33</sup> Thomas Leeson conveyed the manor by fine to Thomas Chamberlayne in 1601,<sup>34</sup>



BIDDULPH. Vert an eagle argent.

<sup>1</sup> M. W. Beresford, 'Ridge and Furrow and the Open Fields', *Econ. Hist. Reviews*, (2nd Ser.), vol. 1, no. 1, p. 38.

<sup>2</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* i, 307.

<sup>3</sup> Dugd. 294.

<sup>4</sup> *Cal. Chart. R.* ii, 70.

<sup>5</sup> *Feudal Aids*, v, 177.

<sup>6</sup> *Cal. Chart. R.* i, 472.

<sup>7</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xi), 245.

<sup>8</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1301–7, p. 318; *Inq. a.q.d.*

30, Edw. I, xxviii, 9.

<sup>9</sup> *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 254.

<sup>10</sup> *Palmer Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 49, 50.

The total yield in 1547 was £24 6s. 8d.: *Mon. Bailiffs' Accts.* (Dugd. Soc.), 59.

<sup>11</sup> Pat. 32 Eliz. pt. 15.

<sup>12</sup> Dugd. 292.

<sup>13</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cclxxii, 93.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid. dcxx, 61.

<sup>15</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Trin. 13 Chas. II.

<sup>16</sup> Pedigree in Nichols, *Leics.* iv, 958.

<sup>17</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 32 Chas. II.

<sup>18</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* i, 314.

<sup>19</sup> *Red Book of Exch.* (Rolls Ser.), 326.

<sup>20</sup> *Book of Fees*, 508. This is probably

the William son of Robert who occurs in

1199: Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xi), 42.

<sup>21</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, 615 (p. 405).

<sup>22</sup> *Feudal Aids*, p. 194.

<sup>23</sup> Dugd. 292, quoting MSS. of Sir

S. Clarke, bart.

<sup>24</sup> Add. MS. 28024, fol. 192v.

<sup>25</sup> Dugd. 292; *Wm. Salt Soc.* vi, 208.

<sup>26</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xv), 1308.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid. 1703.

<sup>28</sup> Dugd. 292; Reg. Bp. Heyworth, fol.

206. Thomas Palmer of Frankton was

pardoned for assault and robbery in 1412:

*Cal. Pat.* 1408–13, p. 382.

<sup>29</sup> Dugd. 293.

<sup>30</sup> Reg. Blithe, fol. 14b.

<sup>31</sup> Feet of F. Warw. East. 4 & 5 Phil. &

Mary.

<sup>32</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cxlii, 63.

<sup>33</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Trin. 4 Eliz.

<sup>34</sup> Ibid. Mich. 43–4, Eliz.





EXHALL CHURCH, c. 1820



FRANKTON CHURCH, c. 1820





GRANDBOROUGH CHURCH, c. 1820

and in 1605 sold it to Edward Yorke.<sup>35</sup> These transactions were disputed by Paul Clarke and Alice his wife, daughter of Richard Duke,<sup>36</sup> and by John Adams and Mary his wife, daughter of John second son of Richard Duke;<sup>37</sup> but Edward's son George Yorke, who died seized of the manor in 1627, left it to his kinsman Sir Thomas Yorke, who predeceased him, and then to his brother-in-law John Shuckburgh of Bourton.<sup>38</sup> His son Thomas Shuckburgh was vouchee in a recovery of Frankton manor in 1659,<sup>39</sup> and died without issue; after which the manor came to the Biker or Bicker family, of whom Lewis, who was concerned in the above recovery, with his wife Rebecca and Hugh Meade and his wife Ann conveyed it in 1663 to Francis Gramer and Christopher Alisbury,<sup>40</sup> perhaps for a settlement, as it was dealt with in 1696 by John Biker, clerk,<sup>41</sup> and in 1713 the Rev. John Biker was lord.<sup>42</sup> The manor seems to have remained in the family until the middle of the 18th century, but in 1759-64 James Gramer was stated to be lord of the manor.<sup>43</sup> It was probably acquired soon after this by the Biddulphs and annexed to their manor.

The church of *ST. NICHOLAS* stands *CHURCH* on the west side of a small churchyard, west of the village. It consists of a chancel, nave, south aisle, west tower, vestry, and south porch. The earliest part of the church is the lower stage of the tower, which dates from the early 13th century; the rest of the church was rebuilt in the 14th century, and in the 15th century the upper part of the tower was rebuilt. It is built of small roughly coursed limestone rubble with red sandstone dressings, except for the upper stage of the tower, which is red sandstone ashlar. The roofs are modern.

The east wall of the chancel has been rebuilt in red brick on a stone base with diagonal buttresses and has a modern traceried three-light window with a hood-mould. On the north side a modern vestry has been erected; it has a square-headed doorway and is lighted by a window of two trefoil lights. West of the vestry there is a small restored ogee-headed window. The south side has two small modern buttresses, a modern square-headed doorway, and a small modern trefoil light with an ogee head. High up in the wall there are two square-headed windows of three trefoil lights, of two hollow splays, with hood-moulds, both much restored.

The south aisle has a plinth of one splay and is lighted on the east by a modern three-light traceried window with a hood-mould, the stops left rough for carving; on the south are two windows of three trefoil ogee-headed lights with square heads, but only the jambs are original, and on the west a single light, of which only the ogee head is original. West of the two windows is a modern timber porch. The doorway has a pointed arch of two orders, a wave and sunk splay, continued down the jambs without capitals; a modern hood-mould has been added. The door is oak boarding on plain framing, hung on two iron hinges the full width of the door, and between them two iron straps; all are decorated with zigzag chisel-cuts and have fleur-de-lis terminals; the straps are similar but with fleur-de-lis at both ends. The handle is a twisted ring with a lozenge-shaped back-plate and escutcheon, with their corners filed to fleur-de-lis; probably 15th-century. The north side of the nave is lighted by two

windows of two trefoil lights with heads out of one stone; one has a restored head and the other is a modern copy. The parapet is modern, built of ashlar on a moulded string, and at the west end a modern buttress has been added.

The tower rises in two stages, of which the lower is 13th-century and the upper 15th-century. The original tower was no doubt in three stages and when it was rebuilt in the 15th century the second stage was omitted. The lower stage has wide shallow buttresses or pilasters at each angle, a plinth consisting of a large roll-moulding at the top of a wide splay, and narrow pointed lights to the ringing-chamber on the south and west. A modern buttress has been built against the north wall and a modern door inserted in the centre with a cement pointed arch. On the south side two further modern buttresses have been added, a low one in brick and stone to the west and to the east one of three stages carried half-way up the tower. A modern traceried window of two pointed lights with a hood-mould has been inserted in the west wall, probably replacing a lancet. The upper stage has a string-course at its junction with the earlier work, an embattled parapet on a moulded string-course which has carved heads in its hollow, one at each corner with two between, and pinnacles at the angles, with trefoil panels and crocketed finials. The belfry windows on all four faces are set in deep recesses with four-centred arches, the reveals and soffits of the arches panelled with a series of trefoil-headed panels, the windows being two trefoil lights of one splayed order, but on the south face two have been put in, separated by a narrow pier. The roof is a tiled pyramid surmounted by a weather vane.

The chancel (27 ft. by 7 ft. 7 in.) has a modern tiled floor, plastered walls, and two steps to the altar. The east window has a segmental-pointed rear-arch, the others all have flat heads. In the north wall there are two modern aumbries and a door with a square head to the vestry. The roof is modern, but two of the carved corbels supporting the west truss are of 14th-century date.

The nave (43 ft. 2 in. by 15 ft. 9 in.) has a modern tiled floor and plastered walls. The arcade consists of three bays of pointed arches of two splayed orders supported on octagonal pillars with moulded capitals and bases, and half-ocagon responds. There are inserted modern clearstory windows on the south only; they are small trefoil two-light windows in wide splayed recesses with flat timber lintels. The other windows have pointed stop-chamfered rear-arches. The tower arch is a modern one of two splays on the tower side and three to the nave, all dying out on the tower walls, and the chancel arch has been restored and partly rebuilt on modern bases. It is pointed, of two splayed orders.

The south aisle (42 ft. 9 in. by 7 ft. 3 in.) has a modern tiled floor and plastered walls. In the south wall near the east end there is a piscina with a restored ogee head and a badly broken basin. The door has splayed jambs and a segmental-pointed rear-arch, the south windows segmental rear-arches, and the window at the west end a flat head. The font is modern and placed at the west end near the door; its circular basin stands on four attached shafts with moulded capitals and bases on a splayed octagonal base.

<sup>35</sup> Ibid. East. 3 Jas. I.

<sup>36</sup> Chan. Proc. (Ser. 1), Jas. I, C. 27, 60.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid. A. 1, 50.

<sup>38</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), dcccxi, 89.

<sup>39</sup> Recov. R. Hil. 1659, ro. 15.

<sup>40</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Hil. 14-15 Chas. II.

<sup>41</sup> Ibid. East. 8 Wm. III.

<sup>42</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations, Shire Hall, Warwick.

<sup>43</sup> Ibid.

## A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

The tower (11 ft. 8 in. by 11 ft. 4 in.) has a modern tiled floor and the window a widely splayed recess with a pointed arch. On the north wall there is an 18th-century memorial tablet.

The plate includes a silver chalice and cover with hallmark 1763.

Of the four bells one is by Newcombe, 1607, the others by Hugh Watts, 1616, 1623, and 1636.<sup>44</sup>

The registers begin in 1559.

The first recorded presentation to *ADFOWSON* the rectory of Frankton is in 1304, by Robert de Okeover and Alice his wife.<sup>45</sup> From this time the advowson followed the descent of the Meulan-Warwick manor till the end of the 17th century. It continued to be held by the Biker or Bicker family, Anna Biker presenting in 1716, John Berriman, clerk (probably by concession of a turn) in 1730 and John Biker in 1745.<sup>46</sup> James Parker, clerk, had the presentation for one turn only in 1758,<sup>47</sup> and in 1763 Mr. Biker is named as patron.<sup>48</sup> From 1782 the advowson has been in the hands of the Biddulph family, lords of the other Frankton manor. Since the union of the benefice with Bourton-upon-Dunsmore about 1932 the presentation has been alternate between Col. W. H. Biddulph and Mr. J. F. Shaw, patron of Bourton.<sup>49</sup>

The value in 1291 was £3 13s. 4d.,<sup>50</sup> and in 1535 £5 12s., in addition to 4s. paid to the sacrist of Coventry Priory and 8s. for procurations and synodals.<sup>51</sup>

A selion of land in Frankton called the Church Hedlond was given for the upkeep of a lamp in the church.<sup>52</sup>

Ann Biker. By an Indenture dated *CHARITIES* 28 September 1736 Ann Biker granted to trustees an annuity of £6 out of land in Frankton-upon-Dunsmore called the Heath

Pieces and another annuity of £7 out of land called the Wasts and Holts Land in the parishes of Shilton and Sowe; the said annuities to be payable at Lady Day and Michaelmas; upon trust that £10 should be paid for the maintenance of a free school in Frankton-upon-Dunsmore, 40s. should be paid yearly to the rector and churchwardens of Frankton, to be disposed of on Candlemas-day unto poor ancient maids and widows inhabiting the parish, and the balance of 20s. to the trustees to answer the reasonable expenses of their meetings. By an Order dated 15 July 1904 the Charity Commissioners determined that 'the part of the endowment of the charity which ought to be applied to educational purposes consists of five-sixths of the net income.

Church Land. The endowment of this charity, the origin of which is unknown, formerly consisted of land in this parish. From time immemorial the income has been applied for the church and its services. The land was sold in 1919 and the proceeds of sale invested. The annual income thereon, amounting to £12 9s. 8d., is remitted to the rector and churchwardens.

Jane Leeson, by her will dated 27 May 1646 charged certain property at Abthorpe in the county of Northampton with the payment of £30 to be delivered yearly on 10 December in various amounts to the respective churchwardens and overseers of the poor of the several towns and villages named, to be distributed by them yearly on 17 December in the presence and with the advice of the clergy of the several towns and villages, towards the relief of the poor of the several places. The amount applicable for the poor of this parish amounts to £2.

## GRANDBOROUGH

Acreeage: 4,494.

Population: 1911, 320; 1921, 367; 1931, 509.

The parish forms a roughly rectangular block, 5 miles from south-west to north-east by about 1½ miles in depth. The northern and north-western boundaries are formed by the Rains Brook, a tributary of the River Leam. Another small stream which forms the northern half of the east boundary also flows into the Leam, which river crosses the parish from south-east to north-west, dividing the hamlet of Wooldscot on its right bank from the village of Grandborough on its left. The road connecting the two at Grandborough Mill is carried over the Leam and a backwater by two bridges, of which the northern was called Chayne Bridge and the other Fines Bridge in 1627, when the cost of repairing the section of road across the Mill Ham between the two bridges was undertaken by Laurence Bolton (lord of the manor), the inhabitants of Wooldscot in return disclaiming pasturage rights there.<sup>1</sup> The only road of importance, that from Coventry to Daventry, crosses the parish parallel with its northern boundary and ½ mile distant therefrom, the tract between the road and the stream being formerly known as Walcote. A minor road leads south-

west from the village down the centre of the parish to Calcutt, where mounds and ditches mark the site of the depopulated hamlet;<sup>2</sup> at the southern end of which, on a slight hill which reaches 340 ft., is Calcutt Spinney, the only considerable block of woodland in the parish.

In 1493 Thomas Catesby allowed a message and 40 acres of arable to decay, so that six persons, employing one plough, became homeless and unemployed.<sup>3</sup> Ten years later he did the same to a holding of 30 acres in Wooldscott, ejecting seven persons, and in 1516 to a similar holding in Grandborough; John Radbourne had done likewise in 1492.<sup>4</sup> All these last three tenements were held of the Prior of Coventry, and William Huett, tenant of the Prior of Ronton, in 1515 acted in the same way.<sup>5</sup> About 1,000 acres in Grandborough were inclosed under an Act of 1765.<sup>6</sup>

There was a mill worth 16d. at Grandborough in 1086,7 and in a deed of about 1280 two water-mills called 'Cuttole' and 'Baggole' are mentioned.<sup>8</sup> In 1531 there was a water-mill attached to Thomas Catesby's manor,<sup>9</sup> and in 1668 there was also a windmill,<sup>10</sup> apparently in Wooldscot, where a miller is mentioned early in the 13th century.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>44</sup> Tilley and Walters, *Church Bells of Warwick*, 161.

<sup>45</sup> Dugd. 292; Reg. Langton, fol. 7a.

<sup>46</sup> Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.).

<sup>47</sup> Ibid.

<sup>48</sup> Ecton, *Theauri*, 94.

<sup>49</sup> Kelly, *Directory Warwick*. (1936); Crockford (1940).

<sup>50</sup> Tax. Eccl. (Rec. Com.), 244.

<sup>51</sup> Valor Eccl. (Rec. Com.), iii, 62.

<sup>52</sup> Exch. Spec. Com. 1440, 19 Eliz.

<sup>1</sup> *Warw. Co. Rec.* i, 48. Cf. *ibid.* vi, 15.

<sup>2</sup> *Ex inf.* W. M. Beresford.

<sup>3</sup> Leadam, *Domesday of Inclosures*, 445.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid. 437-8.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid. 445.

<sup>6</sup> 5 Geo. III, c. 75.

<sup>7</sup> *P.C.H. Warw.* i, 304.

<sup>8</sup> *Cat. of Ant. D.* iii, B. 3926.

<sup>9</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 23

Hen. VIII.

<sup>10</sup> *Recov. R. Hil.* 20 Chas. II, ro. 129

<sup>11</sup> *Wm. Salt Soc.* iv, 295.

Woolscott,  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile north-east of the church, consists of a few farmhouses dating from the 17th century. Harrow House, formerly the Harrow Inn, is T-shaped in plan with a large stone central chimney-stack with the date 1680. It is a two-story gabled, timber-framed structure with vertical timbering and a tiled roof. The adjacent house is similar, but the timbers are concealed by rough-cast.

Castle Farm has part of a late-16th-century rectangular house embodied in a later house. The early building now forms an east wing, two stories high, with a gabled dormer on the south front. It is built of alternate bands of limestone and dark brown sandstone, with a plinth of one splay, and has a tiled roof. The windows are moulded with square heads and hood-moulds. In the gable to the dormer, above a three-light window, there is a painted sundial. The interior has been modernized.

GRANDBOROUGH was one of the **MANORS** 24 vills bestowed by Earl Leofric upon his Priory of Coventry,<sup>12</sup> and in 1086 the Church of Coventry was holding 8 hides 1 virgate here.<sup>13</sup> At the same time another 2 hides, which had been held before the Conqueror by Bundi, were in the hands of Richard the Forester.<sup>14</sup> Laurence, Prior of Coventry (c. 1144-79), is said to have given the manor to Robert son of Noel, whose son Thomas left two daughters as his coheirs.<sup>15</sup> Of these Joan<sup>16</sup> married Thomas fitzEustace, but this manor came to the descendants of her sister Alice wife of William de Harcourt.<sup>17</sup> Both sisters were alive in 1236, when the Lady Alice de Harcourt held of the Prior of Coventry a half-fee in Grandborough<sup>18</sup> and her sister the Lady Joan a half-fee in Shuckborough (q.v.); by 1242 Alice had been succeeded by her son Richard.<sup>19</sup> One of the Harcourts sold the manor to Mr. Henry de Braundeston, who gave it to his brother Hugh,<sup>20</sup> who had a grant of free warren here in 1292.<sup>21</sup> Hugh died in 1299, leaving a son Henry, then aged 16.<sup>22</sup> Henry in 1312 granted two-thirds of the manor of Grandborough with its demesne, freeholds, and villeinage there and in Wolscot and Walcote, and the reversion of the other third, held in dower by his mother Margaret, to Sir William de Bereford and Edmund his son.<sup>23</sup> William died in 1326, holding the manor jointly with Edmund of John de Harcourt.<sup>24</sup> In 1329 Edmund had licence to grant the manor, held of the Priory of Coventry,<sup>25</sup> to the Prior of Chalcombe (Northants.) for the provision of four extra canons and a distribution of alms to the poor.<sup>26</sup> This was in satisfaction of a licence which the priory had previously obtained to acquire lands to the value of 10 marks yearly, at which sum the manor was then estimated; but in 1346 the subescheator reported that the king had been deceived as to the value of the manor, which

was worth £14 7s. more than stated, and it was therefore seized into the king's hands and committed to the keeping of Edmund de Bereford, here styled 'the king's clerk'; but it was shortly afterwards restored to the priory.<sup>27</sup> Ten years later Hugh son of Henry de Braundeston sued the Prior of Chalcombe for the manor, which he claimed had been entailed on his grandfather by the gift of Mr. Henry. The prior replied that he did not hold the whole manor, but for the part which he held he called to warranty the three sisters and heirs of Edmund de Bereford.<sup>28</sup> The suit, apparently as the result of bribery,<sup>29</sup> ended in Hugh's favour. He then enfeoffed John de Haveryngdoun, vicar of Chalcombe, and Thomas Sarazin, chaplain; but on his death-bed Hugh acknowledged to them that he had recovered it from the priory by unjust means and charged them to restore it. They therefore sought, and obtained, the king's licence in 1362 to assign it to Chalcombe Priory, to save the soul of Hugh from mortal peril.<sup>30</sup> In 1365 Chalcombe, fearing that the Prior and Convent of Coventry, of whom they held the manor, might make trouble, obtained the king's permission to charge the manor with an annual rent of 20s. to Coventry.<sup>31</sup> Exactly what happened after this is obscure, but by the time of the Dissolution the only connexion of Chalcombe with Grandborough was the possession of a messuage and a tenement, of a total value of 6s. 8d.<sup>32</sup> The manor itself had in some way reverted to the heirs of Hugh de Braundeston; in 1372 his daughters Rose and Agnes with their respective husbands Richard de Montfort and Philip de Aylesbury shared the manor,<sup>33</sup> which was called Harecourtfee and was held of the Prior of Coventry as half a knight's fee;<sup>34</sup> and in 1390 Roger Aylesbury conveyed the reversion thereof after the death of his mother Agnes to William Montfort<sup>35</sup> (son of Richard). William's daughter Margaret married John Catesby, in whose family the manor remained for about 100 years,<sup>36</sup> being sold c. 1532 to Sir Valentine Knightley.<sup>37</sup> He died in 1566 and by his will left Grandborough to his second son, Edmund, who died in 1597. Edmund's three sons died without issue and his eldest daughter, Anne, married Laurence Bolton.<sup>38</sup> They conveyed the manor to Thomas and Hugh Audley in 1630.<sup>39</sup> It is next found in 1672 in the hands of Robert Harvey, senior and junior, who were respectively son and grandson of Robert Harvey who married Sarah daughter of John (and sister of Hugh) Audley of London.<sup>40</sup> They conveyed it in 1712 to Sir William Meredith,



HARVEY. Or a chevron between three leopards' heads; gules with three trefoils argent on the chevron.

<sup>12</sup> Kemble, *Codes Dipl.* 939.

<sup>13</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* i, 304.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.* 341.

<sup>15</sup> Dugd. 312; *Wm. Salt Soc.* iv, 271.

<sup>16</sup> Joan Nowel made an exchange of lands in Grandborough with Geoffrey de Turlyb and Julian in 1227: *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xi), 358.

<sup>17</sup> Dugd. 312. Joan and Alice in 1222 inherited land here held in dower by their mother Margaret (sister of Ralph le Strange of Knockin): *Rot. Litt. Claus.* (Rec. Com.), 503.

<sup>18</sup> *Bk. of Fees*, 583.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.* 954.

<sup>20</sup> *Wm. Salt Soc.* xii, 141.

<sup>21</sup> *Cal. Chart. R.* ii, 427.

<sup>22</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* iii, 524.

<sup>23</sup> *Cal. Close*, 1307-17, p. 545; *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xv), 1355.

<sup>24</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* vi, 748.

<sup>25</sup> *Cal. of Anct. D.* iii, B. 3925.

<sup>26</sup> *V.C.H. Northants.* ii, 134; *Cal. Pat.*

1327-30, p. 417; *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xv), 1677.

<sup>27</sup> *Cal. Close*, 1346-9, p. 124; *Cal.*

*Fine R.* v, 485.

<sup>28</sup> *Wm. Salt Soc.* xii, 141.

<sup>29</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1358-61, pp. 582, 586.

<sup>30</sup> *Ibid.* 1361-4, p. 261.

<sup>31</sup> *Ibid.* 1364-7, p. 96.

<sup>32</sup> *Mon. Bailleff's Accts.* (Dugd. Soc.),

102.

<sup>33</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xviii), 2198.

<sup>34</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xviii), 2198.

<sup>35</sup> *Cal. of Anct. D.* iv, A. 968.

<sup>36</sup> *Ibid.* v, A. 10387, 10411; *Feet of F.*

Warw. Mich. 23 Hen. VIII.

<sup>37</sup> Dugd. 312.

<sup>38</sup> *Northamptonshire Families* (V.C.H.),

183-4.

<sup>39</sup> *Feet of F.* Warw. Hil. 5 Chas. I.

<sup>40</sup> *Visit. of Warw.* 1682-3 (Harl. Soc.), 61; *London Visit. Peds.* 1664

(Harl. Soc.), 49.

## A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

bart,<sup>41</sup> but apparently only on mortgage or for a settlement, as Robert Harvey was lord of the manor in 1724 and his son John Harvey in 1728.<sup>42</sup> The latter in 1736 inherited the estates of his mother Mary daughter of Thomas Thursby and took the name of Thursby.<sup>43</sup> He and his son and namesake John Harvey Thursby were lords of the manor until 1767<sup>44</sup> and presumably until at least 1783, when the son was patron of the living.<sup>45</sup>

At the Dissolution Coventry Priory had property in Grandborough which yielded rather over £7 in rents;<sup>46</sup> of this a considerable part was in the tenure of Valentine Knightley.<sup>47</sup> In 1544 John Fox and Thomas Hall had a grant of lands in Grandborough, Wolscote, and Willoughby, late belonging to the Priory of Coventry and in the tenure of John Radburne,<sup>48</sup> to whom Fox and Hall shortly afterwards sold the premises.<sup>49</sup> In 1548 John Radburne was licensed to grant 2 messuages and 2 virgates here to his son William,<sup>50</sup> and in 1611 the manors of Grandborough and Wolscote were conveyed to Laurence Bolton by a later William Redburne, who apparently held them in right of his wife Jane.<sup>51</sup> Laurence Bolton also had a grant of these manors and of that of Walcote from William Boles and his wife Blanche in 1620,<sup>52</sup> in which year he conveyed the manors to Sir Seymour Knightley<sup>53</sup> (his wife's cousin), probably for a settlement. Meanwhile, on 26 May 1553, the manor of Grandborough with various lands in Wolscote and Walcote belonging to Coventry Priory had been granted to Edward Aglionby and Henry Higford,<sup>54</sup> who three days later had licence to grant it to Sir Valentine Knightley.<sup>55</sup> Whatever the exact significance of these transactions, the Coventry holdings were evidently united with the main manor.

The 2 hides held in 1086 by Richard the Forester, also called Cheven, descended with the serjeanty of Chesterton (q.v.) to Walter Crok, who enfeoffed Gilbert Crok (probably son of his younger brother). He held a ploughland worth 20s. in Grandborough in 1198,<sup>56</sup> which was held by his sister Alice in 1242<sup>57</sup> and 1251.<sup>58</sup> The overlordship of the 2 hides had passed to Hugh de Loges,<sup>59</sup> and in 1223 Alice, wife of William de Farendon, complained that Hugh had disseised her of the land in Grandborough which her brother Gilbert Crok had given her.<sup>60</sup> Eventually in 1247 Alice came to an arrangement with Hugh's son Hugh by which the land was granted to (her son) Thomas son of William de Farendon to hold by a rent of 10s.<sup>61</sup> In 1289 Sir Thomas de Farendon conveyed his estate to Mr. Henry de Bray<sup>62</sup> who settled the manor of Grandborough on Sir Thomas and

Emma his wife and the heirs of their bodies with contingent remainder to Thomas de Bray and Sarah his wife,<sup>63</sup> whose grandson, William de Bray, tried in 1362 to recover the manor, which had apparently been granted to Sir William Trussell for life by John de Hastang.<sup>64</sup> How he had acquired it is not clear, but by 1346 this half-fee was held of the heir of Hugh de Loges by John de Hastang,<sup>65</sup> on whose death in 1370 it passed to his two daughters. Joan married Sir John Salisbury, who was attainted in 1389; after his death the moiety of the manor was delivered to her,<sup>66</sup> she married Roger Swynnerton, but as she left no issue her share passed to her sister Maud,<sup>67</sup> who had married Ralph Stafford. He died in 1410 seized of the manor of Grandborough, then said to be held of Thomas Sayvill and others as of the manor of Sowe.<sup>68</sup> In this family it descended with Leamington Hastings (q.v.) for about 150 years,<sup>69</sup> being sold by Sir Humphrey Stafford of Blatherwick to Richard Rowley in 1575.<sup>70</sup> William Rowley sold it in 1591 to Thomas Bradgate,<sup>71</sup> whose son William left a daughter Alice, wife of John Hill, who owned the manor in 1633<sup>72</sup> and c. 1650.<sup>73</sup>

The later history of this manor is complicated and obscure. In 1706 Elizabeth Barford, widow, conveyed it to John Radbourne,<sup>74</sup> who with Sarah his wife conveyed it in 1726 to James Ward.<sup>75</sup> It seems subsequently to have passed to coheirresses, John Clarke, Robert Brown, Forbes Wilson, and their respective wives dealing with it in 1741,<sup>76</sup> the two first appearing as joint lords in 1762.<sup>77</sup> In 1769 Robert Curry conveyed to John Wilkins one-sixth of the manor.<sup>78</sup> John Clarke, junior, was dealing with one-third of the manor in 1770;<sup>79</sup> John and Rupert Clarke with one-ninth in 1786;<sup>80</sup> John Clarke and Bridget his wife with eleven-eighths in 1789,<sup>81</sup> and with the whole manor in 1793.<sup>82</sup> John is named as lord in 1794 and was followed in 1805 by John Plomer Clarke of Welton Place<sup>83</sup> (Northants.), but it does not seem possible to harmonize the earlier Clarke entries with the recorded pedigree of Plomer-Clarke.<sup>84</sup>

In 1086 Turchil held two separate half-fides in *CALCUTT*: one of these was held of him by Ermenfrid and the other by Richard.<sup>85</sup> Ermenfrid was also tenant of Ashow and a knight's fee in Ashow and Calcutt was held of the Earl of Warwick by the family of Verdon and their heirs,<sup>86</sup> their tenants being the family of Semilly.

Turchil's tenant Richard was possibly Richard the Forester, who held the second manor of Grandborough (see above), as his descendant Gilbert Crok is said to have granted land here to Adam and Ralph Crok.<sup>87</sup>

No mention of any manor of Calcutt is known before

<sup>41</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Trin. 11 Anne.

<sup>42</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations.

<sup>43</sup> Burke, *Landed Gentry* (1846).

<sup>44</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations.

<sup>45</sup> Bacon, *Liber Regis*, 220.

<sup>46</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 49.

<sup>47</sup> *Mon. Bailiff's Aucts.* (Dugd. Soc.), 58.

<sup>48</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII.*, xix (2), 527 (31).

<sup>49</sup> *Ibid.* xx (1), 282 (52).

<sup>50</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1547-8, p. 339.

<sup>51</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 9 Jas. I.

<sup>52</sup> *Ibid.* Trin. 18 Jas. I.

<sup>53</sup> *Ibid.* Mich. 18 Jas. I.

<sup>54</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1553, p. 236.

<sup>55</sup> *Ibid.* p. 268.

<sup>56</sup> *Bk. of Fees*, 8.

<sup>57</sup> *Ibid.* 954.

<sup>58</sup> *Ibid.* 1277.

<sup>59</sup> *Ibid.* 8; Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xi), 57.

<sup>60</sup> *Rot. Litt. Claus.* (Rec. Com.), i, 569.

*Cf. Wm. Salt Soc.* iv, 36.

<sup>61</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xi), 663.

<sup>62</sup> *Abbrev. Plac.* (Rec. Com.), 217.

<sup>63</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xv), 1063.

Emma was perhaps Mr. Henry's sister of that name: *ibid.* 1267.

<sup>64</sup> *Wm. Salt Soc.* xiii, 34, 36.

<sup>65</sup> *Dugd.* 313.

<sup>66</sup> *Cal. Close*, 1385-9, p. 514.

<sup>67</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 17 Ric. II, no. 92.

<sup>68</sup> *Ibid.* 11 Hen. IV, no. 38.

<sup>69</sup> *Ibid.* (Ser. 2), xxxiii, 145; lxxv, 89;

Feet of F. Div. Cos. East. 1 Mary; *ibid.*

East. 5 Eliz.

<sup>70</sup> *Dugd.* 313.

<sup>71</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 33-34 Eliz.

<sup>72</sup> *Ibid.* Mich. 9 Chas. I.

<sup>73</sup> *Dugd.* 313.

<sup>74</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 5 Anne.

<sup>75</sup> *Ibid.* Mich. 13 Geo. I.

<sup>76</sup> *Ibid.* Hil. 15 Geo. II.

<sup>77</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations.

<sup>78</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 9 Geo. III.

<sup>79</sup> *Ibid.* Trin. 10 Geo. III.

<sup>80</sup> *Ibid.* Hil. 26 Geo. III.

<sup>81</sup> *Ibid.* Mich. 29 Geo. III.

<sup>82</sup> *Ibid.* Trin. 33 Geo. III.

<sup>83</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations.

<sup>84</sup> Baker, *Northants.* i, 460; Burke,

*Landed Gentry* (1937).

<sup>85</sup> *V.C.H. Warwick*, i, 320.

<sup>86</sup> See under Ashow, above, p. 13. The

Calcutt portion seems to have come

from a titling of the Verdon's chief manor of

Brandon: *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep. Middleton*

*MSS.* 295, 304-12.

<sup>87</sup> *Bk. of Fees*, 1277.



1552 when Sir Thomas Newnham is said to have sold it to William, Marquess of Winchester.<sup>88</sup> His younger son Lord Giles Poulett, to whom the marquess left the manor, sold it in 1578 to Thomas Stapleton,<sup>89</sup> and in 1600 three generations of Thomas Stapletons combined to sell it to Edward Stanhope, LL.D.<sup>90</sup> His nephew Charles, Lord Stanhope of Harrington, held the manor in 1642,<sup>91</sup> after which date its history is obscure. From 1785 to 1843 the Shuckburghs, baronets, appear as lords of the manor.<sup>92</sup>

At some uncertain date 4 virgates in Calcutt were held of Coventry Priory by Edmund Herdewyk by knight service and suit at the court of Southam.<sup>93</sup>

Turchil also held in 1086 in *WALCOTE*, Willoughby, and Calcutt 2 hides, of which Ordric, who had held then under the Confessor, was tenant.<sup>94</sup> This was presumably the origin of the one-fifth knight's fee held in 1242 of the Earl of Warwick by Thomas de Arderne and of him by Warin de Walecot.<sup>95</sup> This Warin was probably son of Robert whose grandfather Warin de Walecot was a 'distinguished knight errant', or soldier of fortune, during the wars of King Stephen's time, in the course of which he came to the house of Robert de Shuckburgh and fell in love with his daughter Isabel. Neither Robert nor his son William, who was also a knight, would allow him to have her, so when William was killed in the wars Warin came and carried her off by force. After the death of Stephen, when the peace of King Henry was proclaimed, Sir Warin's occupation being gone he fell into poverty and again took to robbery. Complaints reached the king, who ordered his arrest, and he was trapped in a reed-bed at Grandborough and brought before the king at Northampton, and as a warning to others, was put in the pillory, where he died. Isabel then returned to her father and subsequently married one William de Budebroc,<sup>96</sup> by whom she was mother of Henry de Shuckburgh; but by Sir Warin she had a son Warin, though it was not certain whether she had ever been married to him. This Warin's son Robert was living in 1221.<sup>97</sup> The one-fifth fee is next found in 1316 as held of the Earl of Warwick by William Raymund.<sup>98</sup> It is said to have been held in 1346 by Thomas de Flamvill,<sup>99</sup> who was dealing with land in Walecot and Willoughby in 1341.<sup>1</sup> He was probably descended from Margery, one of Warin's three coheirs, wife of William de Flamvill.<sup>2</sup> By 1400 this one-fifth fee was in the hands of the Dean and Chapter of the Collegiate Church of St. Mary of Warwick.<sup>3</sup>

Part of this same holding of Turchil's is probably represented by the one-tenth knight's fee in Grandborough held c. 1316 by Adam Pheip<sup>4</sup> of Sir Robert son of Adam de Napton, who held it of the Earl as of the fee once Thomas de Arderne's.<sup>5</sup> This was stated in 1400 to be held by the heir of Robert son of Adam de Napton<sup>6</sup>—a formula which suggests that it had in fact ceased to function.

Between 1276<sup>7</sup> and 1285 Thomas Olyver and Agnes his wife were dealing with lands, held in her right, in Woolscot, part of which they sold to Hugh de Braundeston,<sup>8</sup> whose grant of the manor of Grandborough to Sir William de Bereford in 1312 included land here.<sup>9</sup> A so-called manor of *WOOLSCOT* is linked with that of Grandborough in 1531,<sup>10</sup> and from 1630<sup>11</sup> to 1672.<sup>12</sup> The connexion continued until at least 1767, when both were held by John Harvey Thursby,<sup>13</sup> but in 1820 Joseph Smith of Dunchurch was called lord of the manor,<sup>14</sup> as was John Lancaster in 1900.<sup>15</sup>

Many gifts of lands in Grandborough, Walecot, and Woolscot, mostly in small quantities, were made to Ronton Priory (Staffs.)<sup>15a</sup> before 1291. At that date the priory had in this parish 3½ virgates of land worth £1 4s., rents of £1 5s. 4d., and 10s. from agricultural issues.<sup>16</sup> In 1535 the priory had, apart from the rectory, a tenement and four cottages worth £4.<sup>16a</sup>

The church of *ST. PETER*<sup>17</sup> is situated *CHURCH* on the north side of the village and stands in a small churchyard with an avenue of yew trees to the west door from the north-east and of lime trees from the west. It consists of chancel, north chapel, nave, north and south aisles, and west tower. The present church dates from about the middle and the tower from about the end of the 14th century. The only evidence of an earlier church is a tomb recess removed from the chancel and now placed outside the east wall of the chancel. The tower was restored in 1848 and some of the floors tiled. In 1863 the clearstory was added, in 1868 a gallery at the west end was removed, and in 1879 the nave roof was extensively repaired. The church is built with a mixture of red sandstone and limestone rubble with occasional squared blocks of red sandstone, and the tower in light-coloured sandstone ashlar. There is a plinth of one splay all round, except to the tower, of which the plinth is moulded.

The east wall of the chancel has a window of four pointed lights with hood-mould, all modern, and above it the gable has been rebuilt in red sandstone ashlar. Built against the wall beneath the window there is a late-12th- or early-13th-century tomb recess with a round-headed arch of two moulded orders, each supported on short shafts with moulded capitals. The south side is divided into three bays by buttresses in two stages, the east having a pointed traceried window of two trefoil lights; the centre a two-light with trefoil ogee heads and below it a doorway with a pointed arch of two orders, a splay and a wave-moulding; the west a similar window but with three lights and below it a square blocked low-side window of two splays. The doorway and traceried windows have hood-moulds with return ends. The north side has a modern window of two pointed lights and a hood-mould without stops. The roof has a steep pitch covered with tiles and a coved eaves-course.

<sup>88</sup> Dugd. 315.

<sup>89</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Hil. 20 Eliz.

<sup>90</sup> Ibid. Hil. 42 Eliz.

<sup>91</sup> Ibid. Div. Cos. Mich. 18 Chas. I.

<sup>92</sup> Ibid. Div. Cos. Mich. 18 Chas. I.

<sup>93</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations.

<sup>94</sup> Exch. K. R. Misc. Bks. 21, fol. 255v.

<sup>95</sup> P.C.H. Warw. i, 322.

<sup>96</sup> Bk. of Fees, 957.

<sup>97</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xi), 298.

<sup>98</sup> Roll of Justices in Eyre in . . . Warw. (Selden Soc.), no. 390.

<sup>99</sup> Cal. Clore, 1313-18, p. 272.

<sup>1</sup> Cal. Clore, 315.

<sup>1</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xv), 1879.

<sup>2</sup> Wm. Salt Soc. iv, 294.

<sup>3</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. 2 Hen. IV, no. 58.

<sup>4</sup> Perhaps descended from Philip le

Folur who married Anne, one coheir of

Warin de Walecot; Wm. Salt Soc. iv, 294.

<sup>5</sup> Dugd. MS. (Bodl.), 6, fol. 455.

<sup>6</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. 2 Hen. IV, no. 58.

<sup>7</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xi), 932.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid. (xv), 998. Richard Oliver

married Maud, the third of Warin's co-

heirs; Wm. Salt Soc. iv, 294.

<sup>9</sup> Cal. Clore, 1307-13, p. 545.

<sup>10</sup> Feet of Warw. Mich. 23 Hen. VIII.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid. Mich. 5 Chas. I.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid. East. 24 Chas. II.

<sup>13</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> Kelly, Directory of Warw. (1900).

<sup>15a</sup> Wm. Salt Soc. iv, 292-5.

<sup>16</sup> Trans. Exch. (Rec. Com.), 256.

<sup>16a</sup> Valor Eccl. (Rec. Com.), iii, 11 c.

<sup>17</sup> This is the modern invocation, but it

was formerly St. Paul; Wm. Salt Soc. iv,

294; Dugd. 314.

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The south aisle has a low-pitched slated roof, diagonal buttresses at the angles and a modern chimney-stack against the west wall. The east and west ends have traceried three-light windows which are modern copies of the adjoining window in the chancel, but with head-stops to the hood-mould. The south side is lighted by three pointed traceried windows of two lights, all modern except parts of their jambs. Between the windows to the west there is a large doorway with a richly pointed arch, the mouldings continued to splayed stops, and a hood-mould with foliated stops. The modern clearstory, built of red sandstone ashlar, has four trefoil lights with square heads. The north aisle is extended at the east end to form a chapel, now used as an organ chamber and vestry. The north aisle is divided into four bays by buttresses, with diagonal buttresses at the angles, and extends over the chancel to form the chapel. The chapel is lighted on the east by a pointed traceried window of three trefoil ogee-headed lights, and on the north by a pointed traceried window of two trefoil lights; another, with trefoil ogee heads, which has been blocked on the inside, apparently takes the place of a doorway which is shown in a view of c. 1820.<sup>17a</sup> The east bay of the aisle has a similar window to that in the east bay of the chapel, and a square-headed window of two trefoil ogee-headed lights. The west bay has a doorway similar to the south but on a smaller scale, with modern foliated stops to the hood-mould, and a pointed window with two pointed lights; the west end has a square-headed window, as on the north side, with modern head-stops to the hood-mould.

The tower rises in four stages, with diagonal buttresses at each angle, the battlemented parapet on a moulded string-course having pinnacles at the angles and a gargoyle on each face. The tower is finished with a tall octagonal spire which has a string-course half way up, immediately above which are, on the cardinal faces, two-light gabled spire lights with trefoiled heads and flanked by pilasters with crocketed finials. The belfry windows on all four faces are in pairs, each of two trefoil-headed lights, with pointed arches, transoms, quatrefoil piercings, and below each light two ogee-headed panels. In the south-east angle there is a projecting stair turret weathered off below the parapet string-course. On the west side there is a pointed doorway of two splayed orders, the outer splay sunk, and above, in the second stage, a pointed traceried window of three moulded orders with deep splayed jambs; the string-course is taken over as a hood-mould; above this window there is a clock dial. On the north and south faces are square-headed windows of two splayed orders to the ringing chamber.

The chancel (43 ft. 5 in. by 19 ft. 5 in.) has plastered walls, except the east, which is coursed rubble, a tiled floor with a step half-way and two steps to the altar. The altar is modern but the rails, which date from the 17th century, have reeded posts, moulded rail, turned balusters, and double gates with contemporary iron hinges. On the south wall at its east end there is a trefoil ogee-headed piscina with a modern shelf in place of a basin. All the windows have splayed reveals with stop-chamfered rear-arches; the door has square jambs with a segmental rear-arch; the blocked low-side window is hidden beneath the wall plaster. On the north side, giving access to the chapel, is an arcade of two bays with pointed arches supported on an octagonal

pillar and half-octagon responds with moulded capitals and splayed bases. Originally these were window-like openings on dwarf walls, stepped up to conform to steps in the chancel, the west respond being 2 ft. 11 in. above the floor, the pillar 3 ft. 2 in., and the east respond 4 ft. 11 in. The wall of the east bay has been cut away to give access to what is now a vestry and the tomb recess, and the west bay accommodates the organ; west of this bay a modern opening with a pointed arch has been formed to give additional light to the vestry. The roof, of four bays, still retains the tie-beams with shaped brackets to the rafters and shaped struts to the pole-plate of an early roof, probably contemporary with the chancel. The beams and struts are moulded on the undersides, finishing on pointed stops, and in the centres of the tie-beams there are foliated carved bosses. The purlins, rafters, wall-plates, and ashlar are later, probably a 17th-century repair.

The nave (42 ft. 8 in. by 19 ft. 4 in.) has a stone-paved floor and plastered walls. The steep-pitched open roof is of the collar-beam type and some of the old timbers were re-used when the roof was repaired. Both arcades consist of four bays with pointed arches of two splayed orders supported on moulded capitals with splayed bases on the north and square on the south with stop-chamfered corners, later cut away to octagon on the aisle side only. The responds repeat the arch splays, with moulded capitals to the inner order, the outer order being carried down to stops. The chancel arch, which is the full width of the chancel, and the tower arch, which is narrow and very lofty, follow the same detail as the arcades.

The south aisle (42 ft. 2 in. by 11 ft.) has a lean-to roof with moulded beams, posts, and purlins of 17th-century date carrying modern rafters and boarding. At the east end of the south wall there is a piscina with a stop-chamfered pointed head, with its projecting basin broken off. The windows and door have splayed reveals with stop-chamfered pointed rear-arches. The font is a modern octagonal one of stone, placed at the west end.

The north aisle (42 ft. 8 in. by 13 ft. 3 in.) has a roof similar to the south aisle and the arch to the chapel is of the same detail as the arcades, but with moulded bases to the responds instead of splays. The door has a segmental-pointed rear-arch, and all the windows have widely splayed reveals with rear-arches corresponding with the exterior.

The north chapel (30 ft. 3 in. by 13 ft.) serves as a vestry and organ chamber.

The tower (12 ft. square) has unplastered walls and a floor partly of stone paving and partly of wood, over a heating chamber, now disused, electric heating having been installed. On the north wall there is a slate slab with a painted list of charities.

In the vestry there is an oak chest of the 17th century with shaped legs on bearers, bound with iron straps terminating in fleur-de-lis and fitted with three original locks. The oak pulpit, dating from the 17th century, placed on the south side of the chancel arch, is octagonal with tracery-headed panels, a carved frieze, and a low moulded octagonal stem. The panels have been cut out leaving the traceried heads. There are a number of 19th-century wall memorials, and one of the 18th century to John Radburne, Spanish merchant of London, died 1728.

<sup>17a</sup> In the Aylesford Collection (B.R.L.).

The plate consists of a silver chalice of 1807 and silver paten of 1805.

There are three bells by Henry Bagley, one of 1639 and two of 1641, and two by Joseph Smith, 1706.<sup>18</sup>

The registers begin in 1581.

The church of Grandborough was *ADVOWSON* given to the Staffordshire Priory of Ronton, probably by its founder, Robert Noel.<sup>19</sup> In 1291 it was valued at £20,<sup>20</sup> there being also a vicarage worth £4.<sup>21</sup> The endowment of the vicarage was reconstituted by Bishop Walter de Langton in 1321,<sup>22</sup> but in 1401 the prior and convent were licensed to appropriate the vicarage, provided that a competent sum of money was assigned by the bishop for annual distribution to the poor.<sup>23</sup> It is not clear whether advantage was taken of this licence, but in 1535 the vicarage was served by a secular priest who received £5 yearly.<sup>24</sup> The rectory at this time was farmed for £32 17s., a fee of 26s. 8d. being paid to Reynold Carte, who was bailiff of Grandborough and receiver of the profits of the church.<sup>25</sup>

After the Dissolution the advowson was retained by the Crown for some time, but in 1611 a presentation was made by Thomas Davies.<sup>26</sup> He died in August of the following year, being then seised of 'the Parsonage House', the 'Wolhouse', and land in Grandborough,<sup>27</sup> but not apparently of the advowson, which was granted, with the rectorial tithes, in 1612 to Sir John Dormer,<sup>28</sup> who presented in 1615.<sup>29</sup> In 1626 he sold the rectory and advowson to Laurence Bolton,<sup>30</sup> and they then descended with the main manor until some time in the 19th century. By 1850 Mrs. Halse was patron,<sup>31</sup> and from 1874 to 1900 the Rev. William Bunter Williams was both incumbent and patron,<sup>32</sup> his widow holding the advowson in 1915.<sup>33</sup> The benefice was united with that of Willoughby in 1930, the alternate patrons being Major G. Seabrooke (succeeded in 1940 by Mrs. Seabrooke) and Magdalen College, Oxford.

Anthony Staresmore Benn prior to his *CHARITIES* death expressed a wish that his brother,

George Charles Benn, should make certain gifts in his name, including a gift of £500 to the vicar and churchwardens of Grandborough, which was to be invested and the income given to the poor of that parish in coals or blankets about Christmas time, or to other pious and charitable uses. The annual income of the charity amounts to £11 14s. 8d.

George Charles Benn, by will dated 31 August 1894, bequeathed £1,000 to the rector and churchwardens, the income to be given in coals or blankets to deserving poor people of the parish about Christmas time. The annual income of the charity amounts to £22 6s. 4d.

Maria Benn, by will dated 8 February 1873, bequeathed to the vicar and churchwardens £100, to lay out the income in the purchase of flannel, blankets, coals, or bread at their discretion to be distributed as near to Christmas day as can be amongst deserving poor of the parish. The annual income of the charity amounts to £2 10s.

Unknown Donor: upon a benefaction table in the church is mentioned a sum of '£3 charged annually on Mr. Burke's estate of Woolscott, to be distributed at Christmas and Easter'.

John Goode, Joanna Goode, and others unknown. The benefaction table also states that John Goode gave to the poor £5, the use to be given at Easter; and that Joanna Goode gave to the poor £10, the use to be given at Easter for ever. A sum of £43 10s. appears to have been given to the poor by some unknown donor. The endowment of the charities now consists of the sum of £62 6s. 9d. Consols; the income thereon, amounting to £1 11s., together with the income of £3 of the Unknown Donor's Charity, is applied for the benefit of the poor of the parish.

William Smith. This parish participates in the charity of William Smith and receives 4s. per annum which, in accordance with the terms of the bequest, is to be distributed in bread to the poorest people of the parish. For particulars of the charity see under Birdingbury.

## HARBOROUGH MAGNA

Acreage: (before 1931) 1,393; (1931 onwards) 2,321.

Population: 1911, 317; 1921, 351; 1931 (new area), 445.

Harborough Magna is a parish and village near the north-east border of the county, 4 miles north-west of Rugby. The hamlet of Harborough Parva, though nearer Harborough Magna than Newbold-on-Avon, was anciently a part of the latter parish and is treated there; since the inclusion of Newbold in the Rugby Urban District (now Borough) in 1931, the two Harboroughs have been united for civil purposes. On the east the parish reaches for a short distance to the River Swift, near which is the farm called Harborough Fields, a type of name common in this part of the country where inclosure was late. Shortly before 1653 William Walrond, who had married one of the daughters of William Riplingham, late lord of the manor, was em-

ployed by the inhabitants of Great Harborough to draw up articles for the inclosure of that part of the common field lying between Churchover Field and the highway from Little Walton to Rugby; but the scheme was not carried out, owing to disagreements.<sup>1</sup> At this time reference was made to the 'ancient inclosures' made about 40 years before by Mr. Riplingham and others. An Inclosure Act for 27 yardlands or 945 acres in Great Harborough was passed in 1759.<sup>2</sup> The western boundary of the parish is partly formed by a small stream flowing towards the Avon, and between these two ends of the parish, where the height above sea-level is about 300 ft. the ground rises considerably, reaching over 450 ft. along Montilo Lane, a by-road branching north-east from the Rugby-Hinckley road at the village, which is near the southern boundary of the parish and has the typical local plan with the chief settlement on a loop just off the main road. The parish

<sup>18</sup> Tilley and Walters, *Church Bells of*

*Warwick*, 161-2.

<sup>19</sup> Dugd. 313.

<sup>20</sup> *Tax. Ecl.* (Rec. Com.), 242.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid. 244.

<sup>22</sup> Dugd. 313.

<sup>23</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1399-1401, p. 537.

<sup>24</sup> *Valor Ecl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 63.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid. 116. Cf. *Mon. Bniff.* 'Acres.

(Dugd. Soc.), 112.

<sup>26</sup> Dugd. 314.

<sup>27</sup> *Chan. Inq.* p.m. dxvii, 6.

<sup>28</sup> *Pat. R.* 10 Jas. I, pt. 24.

<sup>29</sup> *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.).

<sup>30</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 2 Chas. I.

<sup>31</sup> White, *Directory of Warwick*, 685.

<sup>32</sup> Kelly, *Directory of Warwick*, (1900).

<sup>33</sup> *Clergy List*.

<sup>1</sup> *Exch. Dep.* by Com. East. 1653, no.

11.

<sup>2</sup> Slater, *Engl. Peasantry and Encl.* 302.

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

is not crossed by any railway or canal, nor are any of its numerous by-roads of any great importance; it is a secluded place, and in the 17th century, when three alehouses were suppressed, was described as 'not upon any road'.<sup>3</sup> There is no woodland in the parish except the small Harborough Gorse in the north-east. There is a homestead moat north-west of the village.

Among noteworthy men connected with Harborough are William Basset (1644-95), divine and anti-Unitarian writer, whose father was minister,<sup>4</sup> and Henry Holyoake (1657-1731), the first important headmaster of Rugby School, who was rector from 1712.<sup>5</sup>

In Domesday Book *HARBOROUGH MANORS* is rated at 8½ hides, 4½ being held by Richard the Forester<sup>6</sup> and 4 by Anseis,<sup>7</sup> in each case directly of the king. Richard's holding had before 1066 been held freely by four thegns, that of Anseis by Bruning.

Hugh de Loges, a descendant of Richard the Forester,<sup>8</sup> quitclaimed 16 virgates in *HARBOROUGH MAGNA* to Roger de Herdebergh in 1232.<sup>9</sup> This Roger was in 1253 exempted from being put on assizes, juries, or inquests, and from being made sheriff, verderer, or coroner.<sup>10</sup> The overlordship had by this time come to the Hastings family, and Hugh de Herdebergh, Roger's son, held half a knight's fee in Harborough which in 1269 was assigned to Joan, widow of Henry de Hastings, in dower.<sup>11</sup> Juliana le Blount, widow of John 2nd Lord Hastings, was granted this half-fee, valued at £15 yearly, in dower in 1325.<sup>12</sup> John de Hastings, Earl of Pembroke, held Harborough in 1375,<sup>13</sup> and Joan, the widow of his heir and assign Sir William Beauchamp, in 1435.<sup>14</sup> In 1602 the manor was stated to be held of the heirs of Lord Grey of Ruthin,<sup>15</sup> representative of the Hastings line.<sup>16</sup>

Roger de Herdebergh, son of Hugh mentioned above, died in or before 1284 leaving two daughters as coheirresses,<sup>17</sup> Ela, wife successively of Walter de Hopton and William le Boteler, and Isabel wife of John de Hulles. In 1305 Ela, after the death of her first husband, granted her (half) of the manor to her sister and brother-in-law to hold from the chief lords.<sup>18</sup> John de Peyto, husband of Alice, daughter and eventual heiress of John and Isabel de Hulles and previously wife of John de Langley,<sup>19</sup> settled the manor on his son John in 1326, when John de Watevill is mentioned as holding a moiety of the manor for life;<sup>20</sup> he was brother-in-law of Alice de Peyto.<sup>21</sup> In 1339 John de Peyto the elder granted the reversion of the manor, after the death of John de Peyto the younger, to Sir Walter de Hopton and Joan his wife.<sup>22</sup> The younger John, who was involved in a lawsuit with the Abbot of Combe over waste committed in the manor of Harborough Magna in 1370,<sup>23</sup> survived till 1373, when the reversion came

to John de Hopton, Sir Walter's son.<sup>24</sup> The Hoptons continued to hold an interest in the manor, sometimes described as a full share and sometimes as a moiety, till



HOPTON. *Gules crutilly fitchy a lion or.*



CORBET. *Or a raven sable.*

the death of Walter Hopton in 1461, when it passed to the Corbet family of Moreton Corbet (Salop.) by the marriage of his sister Elizabeth to Roger Corbet.<sup>25</sup> His great-grandson, another Roger Corbet, who died in 1538,<sup>26</sup> apparently settled the manor on Jerome and Robert, two of his younger sons, who with Robert's wife Jane passed it in 1569 to their eldest brother Sir Andrew Corbet.<sup>27</sup> Robert, son of Sir Andrew, died in 1583,<sup>28</sup> and left two daughters as coheirresses, Elizabeth who married Sir Henry Wallop of Farleigh (Hants) and Anne who married Adolphus Cary of Berkhamstead (Herts.).<sup>29</sup> The latter and her husband conveyed their share to Oliver, Lord St. John of Bletsoe, and Roland Lytton in 1601,<sup>30</sup> for settlement on Adolphus and Anne and her heirs. She died in 1602 and he in 1609, when it passed to her sister Elizabeth. In 1610 Sir Henry and Elizabeth Wallop conveyed the manor to Edward Riplingham, Alice his wife, and their son William.<sup>31</sup> The last named dealt with his half of the manor by fine in 1622.<sup>32</sup> His estates were divided amongst his four daughters as coheirresses, Harborough falling to Elizabeth, who died unmarried and bequeathed her half of the manor to Adolphus Oughton, the son of her eldest sister Anne. His grandson, Sir Adolphus Oughton, bart., was lord in 1730,<sup>33</sup> dying six years later without legitimate issue.<sup>34</sup> His widow Elizabeth was lady of the manor in 1740,<sup>35</sup> after which date it changed hands several times, John Shipton being lord in 1753 and John Rush in 1786.<sup>36</sup> By 1806 it had been acquired by Sir Grey Skipwith, bart., and Harriet (Townsend) his wife.<sup>37</sup> Sir Grey Skipwith was lord of the manor up to his death in 1852,<sup>38</sup> and in 1900 it was in the hands of Mrs. Boughton-Leigh, his grandson's widow.<sup>39</sup> By 1936, when the land 'was mainly owned by the farmers',<sup>40</sup> the manorial rights seem to have lapsed.

A priest is mentioned in connexion with the 4 hides held in 1086 by Anseis, so that this portion of Harborough may be identified with that which was in possession of the Langleys by the mid-13th century,

Oliver was the brother and Roland the second husband of Anne's mother: Clutterbuck, *Herts.* ii, 382.

<sup>31</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Hil. 7 Jas. I; Dugd. 93. He states that the Riplinghams were 'nearly related to the Cary family'.

<sup>32</sup> Feet of F. Warw. East. 20 Jas. I.

<sup>33</sup> Dugd. 93.

<sup>34</sup> G. E. C., *Compl. Baronetage*, iv, 47.

<sup>35</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations, Shire Hall, Warwick. <sup>36</sup> Ibid.

<sup>37</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Trin. 46 Geo. III.

<sup>38</sup> White, *Directory Warw.* (1850), 585; *Compl. Baronetage*, i, 216.

<sup>39</sup> Kelly, *Directory Warw.* (1900).

<sup>40</sup> Ibid. (1936).

<sup>3</sup> *Warw. Co. Recs.* iii, 92 (Epiphany 1652).

<sup>4</sup> *Dict. of Nat. Bio.*

<sup>5</sup> *P.C.H. Warw.* i, 341.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.* 341.

<sup>7</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xi), 464. Cf. *Bracton's Note Book*, 950.

<sup>8</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1247-58, p. 193.

<sup>9</sup> *Cal. Close*, 1268-72, p. 42.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.* 1323-7, p. 102.

<sup>11</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 49 Edw. iii, 70.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.* 14 Hen. VI, 35.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.* (Ser. 2), cccxli, 99.

<sup>14</sup> G. E. C., *Compl. Peerage* (2nd ed.), vi, 152-3.

<sup>15</sup> Dugd. 93; *Plac. de Banco*, Mich. 14

Edw. I, ro. 44. A. L. Raimes, 'Reymes of Overstrand' (*Norfolk Archaeology*, xxx), 22.

<sup>16</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xv), 1211.

<sup>17</sup> Dugd. 472.

<sup>18</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xv), 1636.

<sup>19</sup> *Cal. Close*, 1323-7, pp. 102, 235.

<sup>20</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xv), 1835 d.

<sup>21</sup> De Banco R. 439, m. 66.

<sup>22</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 47 Edw. III, 28.

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.* 1 Edw. IV, 42.

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid.* (Ser. 2), lx, 115.

<sup>25</sup> Feet of F. Warw. East. 11 Eliz.

<sup>26</sup> *Pitt. Salop.* 1623 (Harl. Soc. xxviii), 136.

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid.* Dugd. 93.

<sup>28</sup> Feet of F. Div. Cos. Hil. 43 Eliz.



and most of which was granted in the reign of Henry III to Combe Abbey.<sup>41</sup>

Hasculph, son of Anketil, de Herdebergh about 1227<sup>42</sup> was lord of this manor<sup>43</sup> and gave to Sir Geoffrey de Langley his chief messuage and all his land in Harborough, to hold of Sir Gilbert de Segrave,<sup>44</sup> to which his daughter Isabel in 1257 added a messuage and a virgate of land which her father had given her.<sup>45</sup> Hasculph seems to have left three daughters, Alice, Isoult (perhaps identical with Isabel), and Maud the wife of John de Langley,<sup>46</sup> but the Harborough estate was given by Geoffrey de Langley in 1255 to the abbey of Combe, the advowson of the church and rents of £10 6s. a year being reserved to the Langleys.<sup>47</sup> These rents and the advowson were the subject of various transactions among the Langley and related families, being settled by John de Langeley and Ela his wife on their son Geoffrey and his wife in 1325,<sup>48</sup> and in 1330 by Mary, Geoffrey's widow, and her second husband William de Careswell on her son Geoffrey de Langeley and his heirs, subject to a life interest to themselves.<sup>49</sup> The younger Geoffrey de Langley left a daughter Joan, who first married John son of Alan son of Sir Alan de Charleton. In 1366 Sir John Trillowe the younger, Joan de Langeley's second husband,<sup>50</sup> granted the advowson and rents to Sir Baldwin de Fryvill the elder,<sup>51</sup> and in 1372 the latter received from Peter de Careswell, William's son, a quitclaim of his interests in Harborough.<sup>52</sup> His great-grandson, another Baldwin, was the last male Frevill and died a minor in 1418,<sup>53</sup> leaving three sisters as coheresses, and in 1435 a third part of the manor was settled on Sir Hugh Willoughby and Margaret (Freville) his wife.<sup>54</sup> In 1452 another partition of the Freville estates was made, Harborough falling to Thomas Ferrers, husband of Elizabeth the eldest sister;<sup>55</sup> in 1459 he died seised of half the manor and the advowson,<sup>56</sup> then said to be held of the Dukes of Norfolk, who represented the Segrave interest and who in 1400<sup>57</sup> had held 2½ knights' fees in Warwickshire, and in 1462 half a fee in Harborough by itself.<sup>58</sup> On the death of Sir Thomas Ferrers, Thomas's son, in 1498, the manor was said to be held of the king and to be worth 46s. 8d.<sup>59</sup> Sir John Ferrers, Sir Thomas's grandson, who died in 1512, settled his interest on his uncle Roger Ferrers for life,<sup>60</sup> and his grandson John made a settlement of half the manor on his son Humphrey on his marriage to Anne Bradbourne in 1563.<sup>61</sup> They conveyed it to John and Thomas Cleaver in 1572.<sup>62</sup> At Humphrey's death in 1608 the value of the Ferrers property in Harborough was £7.<sup>63</sup>

The Abbot of Combe was holding a court at Harborough as early as 1258,<sup>64</sup> and the grants made by the Langleys were augmented by 12 acres and a third of a messuage from William le Venur and Alice his wife in 1279.<sup>65</sup> Licences to alienate land in mortmain to this abbey, totalling at least 89 acres with 2 messuages, were

granted in 1280,<sup>66</sup> 1290 and 1291<sup>67</sup> and 1299.<sup>68</sup> In 1539 the Combe Abbey property in Harborough and elsewhere was granted to Mary, Duchess of Richmond and Somerset.<sup>69</sup>

In 1482 John Vrellis and Elizabeth his wife granted to the Carthusian priory of Axholme (Lincs.) certain lands in Harborough Magna.<sup>70</sup> After the Dissolution these were granted to Thomas Manning, ex-Prior of Butley (Suffolk) and Bishop of Ipswich.<sup>71</sup>

The church of *ALL SAINTS* is situated on the west side of the village, adjoining the Rectory, and standing in the centre of a small churchyard. It is a small church consisting of chancel, nave, north and south aisles, west tower, and a vestry. There is no visible evidence of a church earlier than the 14th century, to which date the present tower, north aisle, north and south arcades, and the chancel arch belong. During the 19th century the chancel and south aisle were entirely rebuilt, a clear-story and vestry were added, the internal stonework redressed, and a west doorway inserted. The nave was also re-roofed, probably when the clear-story was added, re-using some members of the old 17th-century roof.

The rebuilt chancel is constructed of squared and coursed limestone with light-coloured sandstone dressings, and has a tiled roof of steep pitch. The only window is in the east wall, a pointed traceried one of three trefoil lights with a hood-mould and mask stops. The rebuilt south aisle has walling similar to the chancel and has a steep-pitched slated roof. It is lighted by two three-light windows under four-centred heads with hood-moulds, one in the south wall and the other in the west. The vestry is a continuation of the aisle at its eastern end and has a square-headed two-light window on the south, also one on the east, where there is a pointed doorway. The north aisle is built of roughly coursed limestone and red sandstone with a plinth of one splay, and has diagonal buttresses at the angles and a tiled roof of steep pitch. It is lighted on the east by a pointed, moulded, traceried window of three lights with a hood-mould, all restored except a few stones in the north jamb; on the north by a hollow-moulded window of three trefoil lights under a segmental head; and on the west by a restored pointed traceried window of two trefoil lights. The upper parts of both gable walls have been rebuilt. Towards the western end there is a blocked doorway with a moulded ogee head and a hood-mould terminating in the remains of a floriated finial.

The tower rises in three stages, diminished at each by weathered offsets. It is built of sandstone ashlar with a moulded plinth and a battlemented parapet, and terminates in a pyramid roof with a weather vane. The western angles have diagonal buttresses, the eastern are at right angles to the wall; all rise in five weathered stages, with carved grotesque heads in the fourth stage

<sup>41</sup> Dugd. 92; Reg. Combe, 65a, 69b.

<sup>42</sup> Cal. Pat. 1225-32, p. 165.

<sup>43</sup> Harl. MS. 7, fol. 130v.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid. fol. 178.

<sup>45</sup> Ibid. fol. 130v. Cf. Raimes, op. cit.

<sup>46</sup> Exec. e Rot. Fin. ii, 137; Cott. MS.

Vitell. A.L. fol. 71.

<sup>47</sup> Ibid. fol. 72.

<sup>48</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xv), 1610.

<sup>49</sup> Ibid. 1692.

<sup>50</sup> Dugd. 209.

<sup>51</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xviii), 2136.

<sup>52</sup> Cal. Choc. 1399-74, p. 430.

<sup>53</sup> Palmer, Hist. Tewkesbury, 362.

<sup>54</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xviii), 2584.

<sup>55</sup> Dugd. 93, quoting MSS. of Ferrers family.

<sup>56</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. 37 Hen. VI, 34.

<sup>57</sup> Ibid. 1 Hen. IV, pt. 1, 71b.

<sup>58</sup> Ibid. 1 Edw. IV, 46.

<sup>59</sup> Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VIII, ii, 120. The Duke of Norfolk had been attainted in 1485.

<sup>60</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), xxvii, 90.

<sup>61</sup> Ibid. clxxiv, 62.

<sup>62</sup> Feet of F. Hil. 14 Eliz.; Rector. R.

Mich. 14 Eliz. ro. 123.

<sup>63</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), ccxii, 122.

<sup>64</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xi), 775.

<sup>65</sup> Ibid. 946.

<sup>66</sup> Cal. Pat. 1272-81, p. 393.

<sup>67</sup> Ibid. 1281-92, pp. 375, 427.

<sup>68</sup> Ibid. 1292-1301, p. 443.

<sup>69</sup> L. and P. Hen. VIII, xiv, i, p. 505.

<sup>70</sup> Cat. Anc. Deeds, i, B. 1672, where

field names are given.

<sup>71</sup> L. and P. Hen. VIII, xiv (i), 651 (57).



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of each. The lower stage on the west was refaced in the 19th century, when a doorway was inserted, of late-16th-century design with a four-centred arch under a square head, the arch supported on attached shafts with moulded capitals and bases. Above the door there is a modern traceried window of three cinquefoil lights and hood-mould. In the second stage there is a wooden clock dial. The belfry windows on all faces are of two trefoil lights with transoms under four-centred heads. In the hollow-moulded string below the parapet there are two gargoyles, one on the north, the other on the south. There are loop-lights to the tower staircase in the two lower stages at the south-west angle.

The whole of the interior walls have been rendered with cement, lined out as ashlar.

The modern chancel (17 ft. 4 in. by 13 ft. 4 in.) has a tiled floor and one step to the altar. On the south side a wide pointed arch opens into the vestry, and the organ is placed under it.

The nave (27 ft. 10 in. by 16 ft.) has a modern low-pitched roof, re-using 17th-century trusses, which have small carved pendants in the centre of each of the tie-beams; it is covered with corrugated cement sheeting. The clearstory is lighted by square-headed two-light windows in wide played recesses with timber lintels. Both arcades date from the 14th century and consist of two bays of pointed arches of two plays, the south supported on an octagonal pillar with moulded capital and base and on responds of half-pillars; the north rests on a pillar of four three-quarter shafts, with richly carved capitals and moulded bases, and on half-octagon responds with moulded capitals and bases. The chancel arch is pointed, of two played orders, resting on moulded corbels with a hood-mould which has return ends. The pointed tower arch of two plays rests on 19th-century half-octagon responds, with wide played capitals which are out of line with the arch; across the entrance there is an oak screen, dated 1905. The pulpit, placed on the north side of the chancel arch, is modern, as is the stone octagonal font.

The south aisle (30 ft. 3 in. by 16 ft. 4 in.) has at its eastern end a wide pointed arch opening into the vestry through an oak screen of traceried panels.

The north aisle (27 ft. by 15 ft. 4 in.) has a trussed rafter roof, probably contemporary with the clear-story. Built into the wall near the east end there is a richly moulded pointed arch with part of its crocketed hood-mould terminating in a misplaced floriated finial; it may form part of an Easter sepulchre, possibly removed from the chancel when it was rebuilt.

The tower (9 ft. 6 in. square) has a narrow doorway in the south-west angle, which is played to take the tower staircase. On the wall there is a painted list of 18th-century benefactions.

There are two bells; one of 1659 by Brian Eldridge, the other by J. Taylor & Son, 1850.<sup>72</sup>

The plate is modern.

The registers commence in 1540.

There was a priest here in 1086, on *ADFOWSON* the estate of Anseis,<sup>73</sup> and the first recorded presentation in 1305 was

made by John de Langley,<sup>74</sup> on whom this estate had devolved. William de Careswell, who presented in 1335,<sup>75</sup> was the second husband of John de Langley's daughter-in-law, and had a life-interest in the advowson dating from 1330.<sup>76</sup> He apparently died soon afterwards, for the presentation of William de Thornton in 1336 was made by the king by reason of his custody of the lands and heir of Geoffrey de Langley, tenant in chief; this presentation was revoked in 1338.<sup>77</sup> Sir John Trillowe, the next patron, was the second husband of Joan the Langley heiress, and conveyed the advowson by fine to Sir Baldwin de Frevill in 1366,<sup>78</sup> in which year the latter gave one turn to Sir Fulk Bermyncham.<sup>79</sup> From this time to the middle of the 16th century the advowson followed the descent of the Frevill-Ferrers half of the manor, except that in 1404<sup>80</sup> and 1417<sup>81</sup> Sir Adam Peshale, second husband of the above-mentioned Sir Baldwin de Frevill's daughter-in-law,<sup>82</sup> presented. In 1577 Humphrey Ferrers and Anne his wife sold the advowson to William Boughton,<sup>83</sup> and the patronage remained with the Boughton family, except for Edmund Bromwich making one presentation, probably by concession, in 1692,<sup>84</sup> till the death of Sir Theodosius, 7th baronet, in 1780, when it passed to his sister Theodosia, later the wife of Sir Egerton Leigh, whose trustees presented in 1805.<sup>85</sup> Since this time the advowson has been in the hands of the Boughton-Leigh family, descended through Sir Egerton Leigh's daughter Theodosia.

The value of the church was £5 in 1291,<sup>86</sup> and £14 13s. 2d., with 9d. for procurations and synodals, in 1535.<sup>87</sup>

The rents from a cottage called the Town House were allotted to provide lights in the church. In 1553, when it was in the tenancy of John Moo, it was granted to Edward Aglionby of Balsall and Henry Higford of Solihull.<sup>88</sup>

It is recorded in the parish register *CHARITIES* of 1751 that Robert Scotton gave by his will £10 to the poor of the parish, the interest to be distributed by the minister and churchwardens on Easter Monday; and also the rent of an estate in Long Lawford given for the repair of the church.

Gilbert Thacker by will dated 23 October 1705 devised to the town of Great Harborough a piece of land called Little Mossel, the rents to be applied in apprenticing poor children of the parish.

Anne Blake by will dated 1724 charged her estate in Churchover with the annual payment of £5 to the minister, churchwardens, and overseers of Harborough Magna, to be distributed among the poor of the parish.

Holyoak's Gift. It is recorded on a tablet in the church that £5, one year's payment of Anne Blake's Charity, not having been distributed, the Rev. Mr. Holyoak gave £5 more, to be given to the poor.

It is stated in the printed Parliamentary Reports of the former Commissioners for Inquiring Concerning Charities dated in 1834 that it is generally believed that the parish officers built a house on the land devised by Gilbert Thacker and for this purpose appropriated £5

<sup>72</sup> Tilley and Walters, *Church Bells of Warwick*, 166.

<sup>73</sup> *P.C.H. Warwick*, i, 343.

<sup>74</sup> Dugd. 94; Reg. Langton, fol. 7a.

<sup>75</sup> Reg. Northburgh, fol. 29a.

<sup>76</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xv), 1692. His son Peter conveyed his right in the ad-

vowson to Sir Baldwin de Frevill in 1371:

*Cat. Anc. Deeds*, v, A. 11012.

<sup>77</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1334-8, p. 259; 1338-40, p. 120.

<sup>78</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xviii), 2136.

<sup>79</sup> Dugd. 94; Reg. Stretton, fol. 156.

<sup>80</sup> Reg. Burghill, fol. 15a.

<sup>81</sup> Reg. Catric, fol. 66.

<sup>82</sup> Palmer, *Hist. Tamworth*, 362.

<sup>83</sup> Feet of F. Warw. 19 Eliz.

<sup>84</sup> Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.).

<sup>85</sup> Ibid.

<sup>86</sup> *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 241.

<sup>87</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 58.

<sup>88</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1553, p. 238.

from Anne Blake's Charity and £5 given by Mr. Holyoak and the £10 given by Robert Scotton, and, in respect of this £20, 20s. of the rent is paid to the churchwardens for distribution with Anne Blake's Charity.

The above-mentioned charities are now regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 1 October 1861, which appoints a body of trustees and directs the application of the income, which amounts to £60 (approximately).

## HARBURY

Acreage: 3,397.

Population: 1911, 1,160; 1921, 1,192; 1931, 1,246.

Harbury is a large parish and village in the centre of the county, about 5 miles south-east of Leamington and 3 miles south-west of Southam. The eastern boundary of the parish is formed by the river Itchen, and on the west it reaches for a short distance to the Fosse Way. At Deppers Bridge over the Itchen the height above sea level is only 260 ft., but the village, which is central in the parish, stands on a hill of over 400 ft., through which the former G.W.R. main line to Birmingham runs in a mile-long cutting, an important engineering feat in its time and so mentioned in White's *Directory* of 1850. There is a station (Southam Road and Harbury) about a mile east of the village, and at the south-east corner of the parish, where the railway crosses the Itchen, there are large cement works, which form a very prominent feature in the landscape.

The village has many stone and brick houses of the 17th and 18th centuries, and a few timber-framed with thatched roofs. In the middle of the village is a large circular 18th-century windmill, without sails, its base built of stone, with red brick above. Two windmills are mentioned on the abbot of Combe's property in 1279<sup>1</sup> and 1291 and one on the Kenilworth property in the latter year.<sup>2</sup> The parish is not traversed by any main road, and in 1625 Harbury was described as 'no thoroughfare'.<sup>3</sup> The land is 'poor and unproductive'<sup>4</sup> and in 1740 the village is called Hungry Harbury.<sup>5</sup> It has, however, always been a large one, with 148 houses in 1730,<sup>6</sup> and in the middle of the last century acted as a reservoir of labour for neighbouring 'close' parishes like Chesterton and Ufton.<sup>7</sup> In 1638 it was ordered that Kingston in Chesterton should contribute towards the poor of Harbury.<sup>8</sup> There was a Quaker meeting here in 1758-9.<sup>9</sup>

An Inclosure Act for 120 yardlands, or 3,600 acres, was passed in 1779.<sup>10</sup> The names Leicester House Farm and Temple House are to be associated with the Earls of Leicester and Knights Templars, former landowners in Harbury. In 1397 Deppers Bridge was out of repair, and was ordered to be renewed by the lords of the manor of Ladbroke, who had built it on their own land for their own convenience, and not by the villagers of Harbury and Ladbroke, who had been presented as liable.<sup>11</sup>

Noteworthy men connected with Harbury include Sir Joseph Wagstaffe (fl. 1655),<sup>12</sup> soldier of fortune, who led the abortive Wiltshire rebellion of 1655,

probably a junior member of the Wagstaffe family who were prominent in this village, and Richard Jago (1715-81),<sup>13</sup> poet, vicar here from 1746 to 1771.

Adjoining the churchyard on the north side there is the school,<sup>14</sup> founded by Thomas Wagstaffe in 1611, with a panel inscribed:

----- Wagstaff -----  
1611  
Estab. by Decree in Chancery  
(Butler versus Wagstaffe)  
Confirmed by order of ye same court  
1637  
(Attorn: Gen. versus Baber)  
1759  
Restored A.D. 1866.

It is L-shaped, built of squared and coursed limestone with dressings of brown sandstone, and has a continuous plinth of one splay. The west wing is of two stories, probably to accommodate a resident schoolmaster, and the east, which has no upper floor, forms one large schoolroom. The northern half of the west wing is occupied by a classroom, and the front portion by an open lobby and a small office. The upper floor has been divided up and is used for storage, but the room over the classroom has an original stone chimney-piece. The entrance doorway has a chamfered four-centred head, but its original oak door, of small square moulded panels, has been removed and is now (1949) lying in the vicarage stables. The schoolroom has a fire-place in the centre of the north wall, with four-light windows on either side, a five-light transomed window on the east, and two of five lights on the south. At the west end there is a contemporary glazed oak screen with moulded panels, and above it a gallery front of heavy turned balusters with a moulded capping, now boarded over at the back. It has two doors, one original leading to the lobby and a later inserted door into the classroom. The classroom has a stone chimney-piece in the north wall with a chamfered four-centred head, a four-light window which has had its sill lowered, and on the west a five-light window. The small room in the front is lighted by a four-light window on the south and has an inserted fire-place on the west. There is a gable to the east wing and gables to the north and south ends of the west wing with ball finials, and on the south, at first-floor level, is the inscribed tablet in a moulded frame, flanked by three-light windows, and on the ground floor is the entrance archway with a four-centred head within a square moulding, and a four-light window to the office. The windows throughout are square-headed, of one splay, with label mouldings

Record Society).

<sup>10</sup> Slater, *Engl. Peasantry and Encl.* 303.

<sup>11</sup> Dugd. 333, quoting Plac. de T. Mich.

<sup>12</sup> Ric. II, ro. 193; *Public Works* (Selden Soc.), ii, 225.

<sup>13</sup> *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

<sup>14</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* ii, 369. The endowment of £21 yearly is charged on Harbury

Fields farm, the occupier of which is also

responsible for the maintenance of the

chancel of the parish church: *ex inf.* the

Vicar of Harbury.

<sup>1</sup> Exch. K.R. Misc. Bks. 15, fol. 32.

<sup>2</sup> *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 254-5.

<sup>3</sup> *Warw. Co. Rec.* i, 22. Two badly kept alehouses were suppressed by this order.

<sup>4</sup> Turner, *Shakespeare's Land*, 306.

<sup>5</sup> *Place-Names of Warw.* (Eng. P.-N. Soc.), 170.

<sup>6</sup> Dugd. 354. Of these houses 7 were empty, probably a high proportion and certainly higher than in the country at large at most times since 1801.

<sup>7</sup> *Reports from Commissioners*, 1808-9, vol. xxii, Appx. pt. ii, p. 226. As in most open parishes, the rates were very high before the Union Chargeability Act (1865), but fell considerably in the next few years. The cottages were highly rented (50s. to £4) but indifferently built, and overcrowded. There were few gardens, and a sufficient supply of allotments.

<sup>8</sup> *Warw. Co. Rec.* ii, 8.

<sup>9</sup> Letters of Thomas Cowper, inclosure surveyor of Wellingborough (Northants.

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having return ends. The roofs have been re-tiled and the chimneys rebuilt in brick.

About half a mile south-west of the church is the Manor House, an L-shaped two-story building with gabled wings to the south front. The west wing has a modern brick extension, making the plan H-shaped. It dates from about the middle of the 16th century and although modernized and added to, it retains some interesting features. It is an unusual mixture of construction; the northern end of the east wing is built of stone, with moulded square-headed windows; south of this it is stone with half-timber above; and the remainder of the east front is entirely of timber-framing. On the south front, the east wing is stone with a modern red-brick gable, and the west stone with half-timber above. Between the wings is the hall, with a central door flanked by two-light windows. The door has a moulded oak frame, a four-centred head with sunk spandrels, and on either side 18th-century pilasters with Ionic capitals supporting a projecting semicircular hood. The windows have carved and moulded oak frames in the form of pilasters with crocketed pinnacles. The hall is stone-paved and the walls are panelled with oak, some contemporary. The open fire-place has a carved oak lintel with the initials H.G., and on the east side is a 17th-century staircase with turned balusters, square newels with carved finials, and a contemporary dog gate at the foot. The stone chimney-pieces in the two wings have moulded four-centred heads, and jambs with moulded stops; one has carved spandrels and all probably date from the middle of the 16th century. There is oak panelling in most of the rooms, some brought from elsewhere. Leading to the present kitchen there is a contemporary doorway with a moulded oak frame and four-centred head, fitted with a door of three vertical moulded panels. The roofs have been re-tiled and the chimney-stacks rebuilt in brick.

Harbury was one of the places in which **MANORS** Wulfric Spot gave an estate to Burton Abbey (Staffs.) in 1003,<sup>15</sup> but there is no later evidence of any connexion with Burton. In 1086 **HARBURY** had a total assessment of 12½ hides, of which 1 hide and 1 virgate in Harbury were held by Coventry cathedral priory, though not apparently of Earl Leofric's original endowment. Having been laid waste by the king's army this was worth only 2s. as against 10s. before 1066.<sup>16</sup> There were four other estates: William Buenvasleth having 3 virgates that had been held freely by Ulwin before 1066;<sup>17</sup> Wazelin holding 2 hides of Henry de Ferrers, this having been part of Seward Barn's estates;<sup>18</sup> William 4 hides of Turchil, which had been in the possession of Ordric;<sup>19</sup> and the remaining 4½ hides, in 1086 the property of the Count of Meulan, had before 1066 been held by Lewin and Alric, on whom Domesday Book adds the note that they could sell, but not withdraw themselves (*discedere*) with their land.<sup>20</sup>

Coventry Priory is not subsequently mentioned as a

landholder in Harbury, and from the correspondence in area Dugdale is probably right in identifying this holding with the 5 virgates held in 1279 by Kenilworth Priory, 4 of them in demesne.<sup>21</sup> This priory during the preceding century had received grants of land totalling 3 virgates, one from Thomas son of Gurmund in 1199<sup>22</sup> and two from Gilbert Mallore in 1227,<sup>23</sup> which may account for the 3 virgates of William Buenvasleth in 1086 which are not subsequently mentioned as a separate holding. A further gift of 2 virgates and 9 acres was made to Kenilworth before 1279 by Robert son of Odo.<sup>24</sup> The total value of the Kenilworth property in Harbury was in 1291 £4 10s.<sup>25</sup> and (excluding the rectory) £7 11s. in 1535;<sup>26</sup> it was kept in crown hands till 1561, when it was granted as a manor to John Fisher and Thomas Dabridgecourt, the former receiving the site of the manor-house, then occupied by Thomas Wagstaff.<sup>27</sup> They re-granted it in the next year to Thomas Fisher or Hawkins,<sup>28</sup> possibly a relative, who had been M.P. for Warwick and a confidential agent of the Duke of Northumberland.<sup>29</sup> He died in possession in 1577, when this manor was stated to be held of the Crown.<sup>30</sup> Edward Fisher



WAGSTAFF. *Argent*  
three bends engrailed  
the lower cut short  
and in sinister chief a  
scallop pale.

his son conveyed it by fine in 1592 to Sir Henry Poole and others,<sup>31</sup> and Edward's son John sold it to Thomas Coxo of Bishop's Itchington, the latter in 1622 selling it to Richard Wagstaff,<sup>32</sup> a member of a family that had been settled in Harbury for some generations.<sup>33</sup> He and others dealt with 'the manor of Killingworth (i.e. Kenilworth) in Harbury' by fine in 1635<sup>34</sup> and 1638.<sup>35</sup> By the marriage in 1697 of Sir Edward Bagot, bart., to Frances, daughter and heiress of Sir Thomas Wagstaff,<sup>36</sup> it passed to the Bagot family, who were lords in 1730,<sup>37</sup> after which date it was not reckoned a separate manor.

As regards the Ferrers holding, 1 knight's fee, in Harbury and Chesterton (q.v.), was held in 1166 by Odo son of John, of William de Boscherville, under Earl William de Ferrers.<sup>38</sup> In 1203 a lawsuit occurred over this fee, Isabel de Say, widow of Ralph de Boscherville, claiming it in dower against Odo's son Robert.<sup>39</sup> The matter was settled by Isabel quitclaiming her right and Robert agreeing to hold the fee of Hugh de Picheford and Burga his wife, daughter and heiress of Ralph de Boscherville, for 20s. yearly.<sup>40</sup> In 1242-3 this fee was held by Odo de Herberby of Ralph de Picheford of the Earl Ferrers.<sup>41</sup> In 1279 Robert son of Odo granted this fee, of which the demesne lands amounted to 17½ acres, with meadow and pasture, with 2 hides in Chesterton, and in Harbury some 13 virgates, of which Robert's daughters Julian and Elizabeth each held one and Thomas Odo two, with the chief message and all

<sup>32</sup> Dugd. 354, quoting MSS. of Wagstaffe family.

<sup>33</sup> *Visit. Warwick*, 1619 (Harl. Soc.), 289.

<sup>34</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 11 Chas. I.

<sup>35</sup> Ibid. Mich. 14 Chas. I.

<sup>36</sup> G. E. C., *Compl. Baronetage*, ii, 24.

<sup>37</sup> Dugd. 354.

<sup>38</sup> *Red Bk. Exch.* (Rolls Ser.), 337; *V.C. Warw.*, v, 43.

<sup>39</sup> *Curia Regis R. ii*, 156, 298.

<sup>40</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xi), 148.

<sup>41</sup> *Book of Feet*, 94S.

<sup>15</sup> *Wm. Salt Soc.* 1916, pp. 15, 38.

<sup>16</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.*, i, 305.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid. 335. <sup>18</sup> Ibid. 327.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid. 327. <sup>20</sup> Ibid. 310.

<sup>21</sup> Dugd. 352; Exch. K.R. Misc. Bks. 15, fol. 33.

<sup>22</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xi), 39.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid. 354.

<sup>24</sup> Dugd. 354, quoting Reg. Kenilworth, fol. 74; Exch. K.R. Misc. Bks. 15, fol. 33 v.

<sup>25</sup> *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 254.

<sup>26</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 64, 65.

The tithes and site of the rectory had been let by the monastery for 40 years in 1527 to Henry Porter, and the site of the manor, with a wood, in 1526 for 43 years to Thomas Wagstaff: *Monastic Estates in Warw.* (Dugd. Soc. ii), 42.

<sup>27</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1560-3, p. 327.

<sup>28</sup> Dugd. 354.

<sup>29</sup> *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

<sup>30</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), clxxxiii, 94.

<sup>31</sup> Feet of F. Warw. East. 34 Eliz.

services due, to the abbey of Combe.<sup>42</sup> In 1285 the Abbot of Combe had view of frankpledge and assize of bread and ale in his Warwickshire manors, including Harbury.<sup>43</sup> The Combe property also included 2 carucates granted in 1202 by Henry de Elinton, saving a life-tenancy of Reynold Basset for 2s. yearly,<sup>44</sup> and a large portion of the Meulan holding in Harbury (see below). In 1484 William Catesby was granted by the Abbot and Convent of Combe a yearly rent of 26s. 8d. for life secured on their Harbury estates.<sup>45</sup> These estates were valued at £12 or. 7d. before the Dissolution;<sup>46</sup> they were not granted out by the Crown till 1582, when the recipients were Edmund Frost and John Walker and their heirs.<sup>47</sup> They sold this Harbury manor to Thomas Wagstaff, a London lawyer, brother of Richard Wagstaff who subsequently bought the Kenilworth manor (see above). Thomas Wagstaff subsequently sold it, probably in the early years of the 17th century, to William Cookes of Snitterfield.<sup>48</sup> The sons of the latter, John (the first to be styled 'of Harbury' in the 1682-3 Visitation<sup>49</sup>), and Henry Cookes, with Hester the wife of the latter, settled the manor in 1648 on William Cookes, John's second son, and John Townsend, a member of his wife's family.<sup>50</sup> Thomas Cookes, William's great-nephew, executing a similar transaction in 1694.<sup>51</sup> About 1717 this manor was bought by Henry Greswold of Solihull, who was lord in that year;<sup>52</sup> his brother the Rev. Marshall Greswold was in possession when William Thomas made his revision of Dugdale.<sup>53</sup> The manor has since remained with the Greswolds and their descendants, Anne (Henry Greswold's daughter) being lady of the manor in 1750-3, David Lewis (husband of Mary, Marshall Greswold's last surviving child) lord in 1759-66,<sup>54</sup> his son Henry Greswold Lewis between 1776<sup>55</sup> and 1821<sup>56</sup> and Capt. Edmund Meysy Wigley Greswold (vouchee in a recovery of 1832<sup>57</sup>) from 1829 to his death in 1833.<sup>58</sup> He was succeeded by his uncle Henry Greswold, whose executors held the manor in 1850.<sup>59</sup> By the marriage of Dorothy, Henry's sister, to John Williams of Pittaston (Worcs.) in 1800, the manor passed to this family, who took the additional surname of Greswolde.<sup>60</sup> Since the death of Capt. Francis Wigley Greswolde-Williams in 1931 the manorial rights seem to have lapsed.

Turchil's 4 hides passed to the earls of Warwick, who were the overlords of a fee in Harbury in 1235-6 and 1242-3<sup>61</sup> and in 1401.<sup>62</sup> In the first case Robert le Megre is stated to be the tenant, and in the second he is said to hold of Henry de Lodbroc, who held of the Earl of Warwick. Another Henry de Lodbroc is mentioned as chief tenant in 1316.<sup>63</sup> This family had long been settled at Harbury and Ladbroke, though not descended from the William who was Turchil's

subtenant in 1086, as suggested by Dugdale.<sup>64</sup> About 1130 there was a dispute between Robert de Lodbroc and Geoffrey de Clinton, chamberlain and treasurer of Henry I, as to the tenure of lands in Harbury, the right of the former being confirmed as a tenant of Geoffrey.<sup>65</sup> At this period the family divided into two branches, Ralph the son of Robert being known as le Megre, a nickname that attached also to his descendants. His grandson Robert was the subtenant and cousin of Henry de Lodbroc (see above). William le Megre, son of this Robert, left two daughters as heiresses, Amice the wife of John le Lou and Margery the wife of Philip le Lou. Their respective portions were both granted away to other subtenants by the end of the 13th century, Amice and her husband conveying to Eustace de Hacche in 1290 16 messuages, 2 gardens, 2 carucates, and 16 virgates of land, 12 acres of meadow, and 16s. of rent in Harbury and Wappenbury,<sup>66</sup> and Philip le Lou conveying a messuage, a carucate of land, and 7 acres of meadow to Nicholas le Trimenel and Mabel his wife in 1295.<sup>67</sup>

The other branch of the Lodbroc family, probably the senior as the le Megre fee was held of them, continued to have interests in Harbury till nearly the end of the 14th century. In 1300 Henry de Lodbroc, grandson of the previous Henry, granted a life-tenancy of half a virgate to Robert Ede of Harbury and Alice his wife, for 5s. rent and suit of court.<sup>68</sup> The same Henry settled the manor, for 10 marks sterling annually, on his son John and his wife Hawise, daughter of Sir Robert de Daventry,<sup>69</sup> in 1323.<sup>70</sup> Two years later he granted the life-tenancy of another half-virgate, formerly held by John Page, to Thomas le Prestis and Alice his wife for 5s.,<sup>71</sup> and in 1326 John de Lodbroc granted a life-interest in 5 marks rent to his father-in-law.<sup>72</sup> In 1328 he granted land and a mill to Simon the miller and his wife Margery for life, which property had in the same year been granted to him by John son of John Wylecokes of Harbury.<sup>73</sup> Another life-tenancy was made by John de Lodbroc in 1335 of a house, croft, and 1½ acres of land at le Euednest in Harbury to John le Ferur and Joan his wife; these had been held by Henry Attestretusende, and the rent was 4s. and a heriot at death.<sup>74</sup> In 1350 the manor was settled on Hawise, John de Lodbroc's widow, with remainder to John's son Thomas and Alice daughter of William Catesby and their heirs.<sup>75</sup> Thomas de Lodbroc and his brothers John and Hugh all died without issue, the manor descending to their sister Alice, wife of Lewis Cardican or Cook, who was 30 years of age in 1386.<sup>76</sup> Her daughter and heiress Katharine married William Hathwyk, who was the Earl of Warwick's tenant in 1401.<sup>77</sup> His son John held the manor in 1432-3, when it was rated at one-eighth of a knight's fee.<sup>78</sup>

<sup>42</sup> *Cal. Chise.* 1272-9, p. 558. The family of Oede, later Eode and Ede, continued to hold land in Harbury until the 16th century: Assize R. 1400, mm. 132, 133; De Banco R. 351, mm. 238, 249; Early Chan. Proc. 34, no. 433; *ibid.* 433, no. 19.

<sup>43</sup> *Plac. Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 777. <sup>44</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xi), 105.

<sup>45</sup> *Cat. Anct. Deeds*, iii, A. 4306. <sup>46</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 54.

<sup>47</sup> *Pat. 24 Elis.* pt. 10. <sup>48</sup> *Dugd.* 354. An inquisition of 1606 (Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), dxvii, 151) mentions John Cooke's manor of Harbury.

<sup>49</sup> *Harleian Soc.* lxii, 65, 66.

<sup>50</sup> *Feet of F. Div. Cos.* Hil. 23 Chas. I.

<sup>51</sup> *Ibid.* Warw. Trin. 6 Wm. & Mary.

<sup>52</sup> *Gamekeepers' Deputations*, Shire Hall, Warwick.

<sup>53</sup> *Dugd.* 354.

<sup>54</sup> *Gamekeepers' Deputations*.

<sup>55</sup> *Recov. R. Mich.* 17 Geo. III, ro. 76.

<sup>56</sup> *Gamekeepers' Deputations*.

<sup>57</sup> *Recov. R. Trin.* 3 Wm. IV, ro. 17.

<sup>58</sup> *Gamekeepers' Deputations*; Burke.

*Landed Gentry*, ed. 1846, i, 505.

<sup>59</sup> *White, Directory Warw.* 604.

<sup>60</sup> *Burke, Landed Gentry*, ed. 1906,

pp. 1814-15. <sup>61</sup> *Burke's Peerage*, 508, 509.

<sup>62</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 2 Hen. IV, 58, m. 76.

<sup>63</sup> *Feudal Aids*, v, 177.

<sup>64</sup> *Dugd.* 352. See under Ladbroke,

notes 21 and 22.

<sup>65</sup> *Dugd.* 353, citing Reg. Kenilworth,

fols. 166, 167.

<sup>66</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xv), 1077.

Eustace de Hacche already held 3 carucates

less 10 acres of John de Lodbroc by ser-

vise of one fee and 4s.; Exch. K.R. Misc.

Bks. 15, fol. 34. <sup>67</sup> *Ibid.* 1114.

<sup>68</sup> *Cat. Anct. Deeds*, iv, A. 7273.

<sup>69</sup> *Ibid.* A. 8248.

<sup>70</sup> *Nichols, Leics.* iv, 51.

<sup>71</sup> *Cat. Anct. Deeds*, iv, A. 9409.

<sup>72</sup> *Ibid.* A. 9048.

<sup>73</sup> *Ibid.* A. 6617, 6647. <sup>74</sup> *Ibid.* A. 8229.

<sup>75</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xviii), 2030.

<sup>76</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 9 Ric. II, 31.

<sup>77</sup> *Ibid.* 2 Hen. IV, 58, m. 76.

<sup>78</sup> *Dugd.* 354, quoting King's Remem-

brancer's R.



# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

In 1529 Robert Corbett conveyed a manor in Harbury to Michael Dormer,<sup>79</sup> and in the following year Joan Hall, formerly Corbett, widow (perhaps his mother) made another conveyance to Edward Underhill,<sup>80</sup> who died seised of this manor in 1547.<sup>81</sup> In 1553 his sons John and William, with Katharine Dormer, widow of Michael, settled the manor on her for life, with remainder to (her fourth son)<sup>82</sup> John Dormer.<sup>83</sup> He and his brother William conveyed the manor in 1591 to John Camden,<sup>84</sup> to whom it was confirmed in 1594 by John Stampe and Isabel his wife,<sup>85</sup> who was niece and heir of John Dormer.<sup>86</sup>

In 1635 John Bickley died in possession of a manor held of Francis, Lord Dunsmore (afterwards Earl of Chichester), which had been settled by his father Robert at John's marriage in 1619 to Anne Phippes; his son, another John, was aged 7 at his father's death.<sup>87</sup>

The 4½ hides of the Count of Meulan passed to the earls of Leicester, but disappeared fairly soon as a separate entity, although this had been the largest of the Domesday holdings in Harbury. The immediate subtenant of the earls in the reign of Henry I was Geoffrey de Clinton, who as already stated was in dispute with Robert de Lodbroc the tenant of the 4 hides of the earls of Warwick.<sup>88</sup> His son Geoffrey gave the church of Harbury, with 2 virgates of land, to Kenilworth Priory.<sup>89</sup> Henry de Clinton, son of the younger Geoffrey, granted much of the remainder of his land to various persons; 100s. worth to Henry Mallore in 1201,<sup>90</sup> and other portions to Reynold Basset, who also acquired land here from Henry Mallore, which Robert 'Fitz-Pernel', Earl of Leicester, confirmed to him, and from Walter le Bret.<sup>91</sup> In 1201 Reynold Basset granted 2 carucates and 5 virgates in Harbury to the Abbot of Combe,<sup>92</sup> who as a tenant of Edmund Crouchback, Earl of Lancaster and of Leicester, held estates in Harbury that included two mills, a dove-cote, and a garden (total value £9 2s.) in 1291<sup>93</sup> and were reckoned at a fifth and a quarter of a knight's fee in 1298.<sup>94</sup> By the same inquisition John Mallore was declared to hold a quarter of a knight's fee,<sup>95</sup> which was held by others of the same name in 1330 and 1361 of the honor of Leicester.<sup>96</sup> It was separately distinguished as late as 1428 as having been held by John Mallore, though the overlord is unnamed.<sup>97</sup> Reynold Basset must have kept a small part of his estates when he made his grant to Combe Abbey, for in 1326 a commission of oyer and terminer was issued regarding a complaint by Ralph Basset that when abroad in the king's service persons had broken into various of his estates, including Harbury, and assaulted his servants.<sup>98</sup> But the greater part of the Clinton property in Harbury had by the beginning of the 13th century been granted to Kenilworth and Combe Abbeys, and descended with these monasteries' holdings in Harbury from other sources (see above).

Land in Harbury was in the reign of Henry II given by the younger Geoffrey de Clinton and his son Henry to the Knights Templars who, in 1185, had rather over

10 virgates of Henry's fee, of which 5 virgates of demesne and 'the court' were then leased to Seffrid the Dean (of Chichester).<sup>99</sup> In 1200 they sought warranty from Henry de Clinton of a number of grants which he had made in Harbury and Tachbrook amounting to 6 virgates, 1 acre, and 2 cotlands, as well as 2 hides given by Geoffrey, of which they had lost 'the chief court' and 1 virgate.<sup>1</sup> The Harbury portion consisted of 1 carucate, 2 virgates, and 6 acres, together with 5 virgates in demesne, held in 1279 from Robert son of Odo, under Earl Ferrers.<sup>2</sup> After the suppression of the Templars in 1308 this property evidently passed to the Hospitallers, whose prior was suing William son of Thomas Oede for land in Harbury in 1347;<sup>3</sup> and the grant to John Fisher in 1562 included a capital messuage in Harbury late of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem.<sup>4</sup>

Richard de Barre, with the assent of Robert, Earl of Leicester (1163-8), gave his land in Harbury to Nuneaton Priory, subject to a rent of 10 marks during his life.<sup>5</sup> And 2 virgates in Harbury were granted by Robert le Megre in 1213 to the Priory of Nuneaton,<sup>6</sup> the prioresse being reckoned as one of the 'lords' of Harbury in 1297.<sup>7</sup> The Nuneaton property in 'Horrebury' (? Harbury) was in 1535 worth £3 5s. 8d.<sup>8</sup> and was included in the grant to Fisher in 1582.<sup>9</sup>

The Priory of Clattercote in Oxfordshire had a grant of land here from Philip son of Miles of Coventry, which they transferred to Combe Abbey in 1242.<sup>10</sup>

The church of *ALL SAINTS* lies to the north of the village, in the centre of a small churchyard entered by a modern lych-gate. It consists of chancel, nave, north and south aisles, north chapel, and west tower. When built in the latter part of the 13th century it consisted of chancel, nave, south aisle, and west tower. It has been much altered in modern times, the south aisle widened, a north aisle and chapel added, most of the windows renewed, and the upper part of the tower rebuilt in red brickwork, the whole building re-roofed, and most of the walls refaced. All the roofs are tiled.

The east gable wall of the chancel is built of small limestone rubble with occasional blocks of dressed sandstone and dressed stone angle buttresses. The three-light moulded tracery window with a pointed arch and hood-moulding is modern. On the south side, also built of rubble, are two modern square-headed windows of two trefoil lights with label mouldings, and between them a narrow doorway with a pointed arch of one splay, probably of 14th-century date; at the western end there is a low-side lancet window with a single splay, the lower part blocked with masonry. The north side, also of rubble, has a long narrow lancet window at the east end, dating from the 13th century; the remainder of this wall is occupied by a modern vestry. The east wall of the south aisle has a modern three-light tracery window with a pointed arch and hood-moulding stopped on square blocks. On the south side there are two similar

<sup>79</sup> Feet of F. Warw. East. 21 Hen. VIII.

<sup>80</sup> Ibid. Hil. 22 Hen. VIII.

<sup>81</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), lxxxv, 76.

<sup>82</sup> Baker, *Norhamts.* i, 620.

<sup>83</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 37-4 Eliz.

<sup>84</sup> Ibid. Warw. Mich. 37-4 Eliz.

<sup>85</sup> Ibid. Warw. Hil. 36 Eliz.

<sup>86</sup> Baker, loc. cit. Cf. Early Chan. Proc.

1275, no. 3.

<sup>87</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), dxxxiii, 11.

<sup>88</sup> See note 65 above.

<sup>89</sup> Dugdale, *Mon. Angl.* vi, 223.

<sup>90</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xi), 109.

<sup>91</sup> Cott. MS. Vitell. A. i, fol. 140, 141,

143 v. <sup>92</sup> Ibid. 140 v.

<sup>93</sup> *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 255.

<sup>94</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* iii, 423 (pp. 310, 320).

<sup>95</sup> Ibid.

<sup>96</sup> *Feudal Aids*, vi, 560; *Cal. Choc.*

1360-4, p. 207.

<sup>97</sup> *Feudal Aids*, v, 194.

<sup>98</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1324-7, p. 292.

<sup>99</sup> Lees, *Templars in Engl.* 29.

<sup>1</sup> *Curia Regis* R. i, 299.

<sup>2</sup> Exch. K.R. Misc. Bks. 15, fol. 33 v.

<sup>3</sup> De Banco R. 351, m. 249.

<sup>4</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1560-3, p. 327.

<sup>5</sup> Add. Chart. 48086.

<sup>6</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xi), no. 210.

<sup>7</sup> Exch. K.R. Misc. Bks. 15, fol. 32.

<sup>8</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 76.

<sup>9</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1560-3, p. 327.

<sup>10</sup> Cott. MS. Vitell. A. i, fol. 114 v.



windows with a buttress between, and to the west a modern doorway with a moulded pointed arch of two orders, the outer supported on attached shafts with moulded capitals and bases. In the west wall there is a four-light window to the nave and a three-light to the north aisle similar to those in the south aisle. The north aisle is lighted by three three-light and one two-light tracery windows, and has a north door; all similar to those in the south aisle. The vestry is a continuation of the aisle and has a pointed arch doorway of one splay and lighted on the east side by a three-light window similar to that in the aisle. Against its north wall there is a small brick-built boiler-house with a tiled roof.

The west tower must have given trouble from the time it was built; the original shallow flat buttresses were unequal to arresting a tendency for its west wall to lean outwards and, as a result, massive buttresses in four weathered stages were built at the west corners, partly overlapping the original ones. The upper part of the second and belfry stages had been taken down to the level of the ridge of the nave roof, where the tower was finished off with a low pyramidal roof;<sup>11</sup> they were rebuilt in red brick, perhaps when the bells were recast in 1811. The tower, built of roughly coursed limestone rubble with worked sandstone dressings, is in three stages, with buttresses at each corner, that at the north-east angle coming down in the nave. On the west face in the first stage is a lancet window with a single splay and above, in the second stage, which is marked by a weathered splay, there is the blocked lower half of a narrow window. From half-way up this stage the tower is continued in modern brickwork. The buttress at the north-west corner is embodied in the modern nave wall. The later buttress to the south overlaps a loop light to the tower stair, and a square opening has been left in the north side to act as a borrowed light. On the south side in the lower stage there is a lancet window and above it in the second stage a diamond-shaped painted wooden clock dial dated 1835, but the clock itself dates from the 18th century. Above the clock in the brickwork is a round-headed window to the ringing-chamber. On the face of the buttress to the west there is an incised and painted sundial with an inscription—'Time flieth what dost . . .' The modern brick belfry stage has a battlemented parapet with plain cement copings, a cement string-course marking the third stage, and round-headed openings in each face.

The chancel (30 ft. 9 in. by 16 ft. 9 in.) has a modern tiled floor with two steps from the nave, one at the altar rail, and two to the altar. The modern roof is of the hammer-beam type. The east window has a pointed rear-arch and splayed stop-chamfered jambs and below it a modern carved stone reredos with coloured tile panels. At the east end of the south wall there is a modern piscina with a stop-chamfered trefoil head. The two modern windows have flat-shouldered rear-arches, and the doorway between them a pointed one with a single splay. At the west end the low-side window has a splayed recess with a flat head. Fixed to this wall is a small brass inscription to Anne Wagstaff, died 1624. The western half of the north wall has been removed and a wide arch inserted, opening into the modern vestry, the organ being placed under the arch. In the eastern end the 13th-century

lancet window has a widely splayed recess with a pointed rear-arch.

The nave (65 ft. 2 in. by 20 ft. 9 in.) has a tile and wood-block floor and an open roof of the queen-post type with curved brackets to the tie-beams. The south arcade has three bays with pointed arches of two splayed orders supported on octagonal pillars with richly moulded capitals and bases. At the ends the inner order dies out on flat responds and the outer continues down to splayed stops. The tower arch is of three splayed orders, the inner resting on responds, which repeat the inner order, with restored moulded capitals and single-splay bases, the two outer splays dying out on the walls.

The south aisle (38 ft. 9 in. by 16 ft. 6 in.) was widened when the nave was rebuilt and the north aisle added. The line of the earlier lean-to roof can be seen on the east wall of the tower below the modern king-post truss roof. The arch from the aisle to the tower was not widened with the aisle but its south jamb was rebuilt; it is of three splayed orders, the inner order resting on a respond with a moulded capital on the south and dying out on the tower pier on the north. The modern north arcade is of five bays with pointed arches, octagonal pillars and capitals in harmony with the original on the south. The chancel arch is of two splayed orders which continue down to splayed stops without capitals, dating from about the middle of the 14th century. In the floor at the west end is a large stone slab to Alys Wagstaffe, died 1563, inlaid with an inscribed brass border enclosing the matrix for a female figure and on her right is a brass figure of her daughter in the dress of the period, her hands clasped in prayer, and on her left the matrix for her (five) sons. There are two brass inscriptions outside the border and two within.<sup>12</sup>

The north aisle (65 ft. 5 in. by 16 ft. 10 in.) is paved with tiles, and the open roof is a form of queen-post with curved brackets to the tie-beams. All the windows have pointed stop-chamfered rear-arches. In the floor at the west end is a large stone slab with a brass coat of arms in a lozenge with crest and mantling, and below a brass tablet to James Wright, died 1685. Opposite the north door is a modern stone font with an octagonal basin, having foliated panels on all sides, octagonal shaft, moulded base, and a circular basin lined with copper. In front of the north door there is an early-17th-century carved chest with a plain panelled lid. The vestry is a continuation of the north aisle and shut off from it by a wooden screen. On the north side there is a door and a recess with a segmental-pointed arch. The floor is tiled.

The tower (15 ft. 3 in. by 15 ft. 5 in.) is paved with tiles and has an octagonal base in the centre for the font, now in the north aisle. The two lancet windows have widely-splayed jambs and sills with pointed rear-arches. The south-west corner is splayed for the door to the tower staircase, which has a pointed arch formed of two stones. On the walls there are several 18th- and 19th-century memorials, and against the south wall an oak chest with iron bands terminating in fleurs-de-lis, two locks, and hasps for padlocks, probably early-18th-century.

The five bells were recast by Thomas Mears in 1811.<sup>13</sup>

The plate consists of a silver chalice with cover inscribed 'Harberbery 1576,' the hallmark illegible.

<sup>11</sup> See drawing in the Aylesford Collection.

<sup>12</sup> Tilley and Walters, *Church Bells of Warwick*. 160.

<sup>13</sup> Given in Dugd. 356.

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

The registers commence 1564.

The church was granted to Kenilworth ADFOVSON worth Priory by the younger Geoffrey de Clinton about the middle of the 12th century.<sup>14</sup> His gift was ratified by Robert de Lodbroke and his brother William, a priest, and by Robert's son Ralph le Megre, in the presence of his grandmother, his wife, and her mother and her uncle Ralph de Parco, with the addition of 2 virgates of land, one of them in remorse for having laid violent hands on the canons in a quarrel as to their rights to it.<sup>15</sup> It was appropriated to the priory by Bishop Muschamp in the reign of John.<sup>16</sup> The patronage remained with the convent; just before the Dissolution they granted a turn, which was not exercised till 1550, to Nicholas Cooke and others.<sup>17</sup> The rectory and advowson were retained by the Crown till 1589-90, when they were granted to Richard Thekeston and others.<sup>18</sup> They were soon passed to the Wagstaff family, Henry and Thomas in 1598 conveying the advowson to Richard Wagstaff,<sup>19</sup> subsequently lord of one of the Harbury manors. Between 1633, when Richard Wagstaff presented,<sup>20</sup> and 1638<sup>21</sup> the advowson came into the hands of James Wright; he or his son James presented in 1670,<sup>22</sup> and Dorothy Wright of Warwick in 1711.<sup>23</sup> By 1743 the advowson had passed to the Newsham or Newsam family, who continued to hold it for more than a century, the Rev. Clement Newsam (died c. 1852) being incumbent as well as patron.<sup>24</sup> The next presentation was made by trustees,<sup>25</sup> and after being in private hands early in the 20th century (Mrs. Edith Kearney patron, 1900,<sup>26</sup> Mrs. Beardsworth, 1915),<sup>27</sup> the advowson is again in the hands of trustees.<sup>28</sup>

The value of the church in 1291 was £12 4s. 8d., together with pensions of 10s. yearly to the Prior of Warmington and 12s. yearly to the Prior of Tutbury (Staffs.).<sup>29</sup> In 1535 the rectory was farmed at £10<sup>30</sup>

and the vicarage was worth £5 clear.<sup>31</sup> At this time Tutbury still received the 12s. pension, in lieu of tithes from Kenilworth.<sup>32</sup> This pension must have been derived from the gift of 'Vasolinus' of two-thirds of the tithes of his demesne in Harbury and Chesterton, which gift was confirmed by Robert de Ferrers, Earl of Derby, between 1140 and 1160.<sup>33</sup> The pension to Warmington originated in a grant of tithes here and elsewhere made by Robert, Count of Meulan, and his brother Henry, Earl of Warwick, to the abbey of Préaux, confirmed by William I c. 1080.<sup>34</sup> Warmington Priory was a cell of Préaux and was granted in 1428 to the Carthusians of Witham (Somerset),<sup>35</sup> but there is no evidence of the 10s. being paid to them.

John Jorge. It is recited in a deed CHARITIES dated 20 May 1736 that certain land in Harbury was given for the relief of the poor and the maintenance and repair of the church of Harbury. The land has been sold and the proceeds of sale invested. The annual income amounts to £47 14s. 8d.

Poor's Allotment. Upon the inclosure of the common fields of Harbury about 1780 an allotment of 30 acres was awarded in lieu of the right of the poor to cut furze. The allotment is now let, producing an annual income of £33 1s.

The charities are regulated by schemes of the Charity Commissioners dated 16 June 1865 and 31 July 1869. The schemes appoint a body of trustees and directs that one moiety of the income of Jorge's charity shall be applied towards the maintenance of the fabric of the parish church, inclusive of the tower and steeple but exclusive of the chancel, and, subject thereto, towards defraying the other expenses usually covered by a church rate, and the other moiety and the income of the Poor's Allotment shall be applied in the provision of clothes, bedding, &c., for the most deserving poor persons resident in the parish.

## HILLMORTON

Acreeage: 3,124.

Population: 1911, 1,259; 1921, 1,712; 1931, 3,786.

Hillmorton parish lies to the south-east of Rugby, in which borough it has been absorbed since 1932, except for the eastern part, which has been annexed for civil purposes to Clifton-upon-Dunsmore. Though not widely known by name, it is perhaps the most prominent of all Warwickshire parishes, the 820-ft. masts of the Post Office wireless station being a landmark for some twenty miles around.<sup>1</sup> The parish forms the eastern end of the tract of high ground of which the western part is Dunsmore, and there are good views from the village over the flat country south and east into Northamptonshire. Its eastern boundary is the Watling Street. The Rains Brook divides Hillmorton from Barby and Kilsby in Northants. on the south, and the northern boundary of the parish is formed by a small tributary of the Avon, the ground rising from about 300 ft. by these streams to over 400 ft. at the top of

the village. Though they never seem to have had separate existence as manors, the parish is made up, and its name derived from, two townships Hull and Morton, which even in Dugdale's time were to some extent distinct, the former 'conteyning that part standing on the Bank', the latter, 'where the church is, that below in a moorish flat ground'.<sup>2</sup> Thomas, noting the number of houses in 1730 as 74, states that 'this Town stood formerly more in the bottom nearer the Church than it does now',<sup>3</sup> and the two main streets of the village, running parallel east and west, continued to be known as Upper and Lower Street. The former, which is part of the main road from Northampton to Coventry, throws off a branch to Rugby and expands into an attractive green, on which stand the remains of the market cross. West of the green there has been much building in recent years, linking the old village with Rugby. The market, which like that at Dunchurch was much better situated in the pre-railway age than that

<sup>14</sup> Harl. MS. 3650, fol. 12 v.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid. fols. 20, 20 v., 84.

<sup>16</sup> Dugd. 355.

<sup>17</sup> Pat. 32 Eliz. pt. 4.

<sup>18</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 40-41 Eliz.

<sup>19</sup> Inst. Bks. P.R.O.

<sup>20</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 14 Chas. II.

<sup>21</sup> Inst. Bks. P.R.O. <sup>22</sup> Dugd. 355.

<sup>23</sup> White, *Directory Warw.* 604.

<sup>24</sup> *Clergy List* (1859).

<sup>25</sup> Kelly, *Directory Warw.* (1900).

<sup>26</sup> *Clergy List* (1915). <sup>28</sup> Crockford.

<sup>27</sup> *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 241.

<sup>29</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 64.

<sup>30</sup> Ibid. 70.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid. 143. <sup>32</sup> Ibid. 143.

<sup>33</sup> *Mon. Angl.* iii, 392. 'Vasolinus' was

presumably the Domesday subtenant Wazelin.

<sup>34</sup> *Cal. Dects. France*, 108, where it is wrongly identified as Great Harborough.

<sup>35</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* ii, 132.

<sup>1</sup> See Kelly, *Directory Warw.* under Clifton-upon-Dunsmore (in which parish the wireless station is now situated), for a good description.

<sup>2</sup> Dugd. 18.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid. 22.



GREAT HARBOROUGH CHURCH, c. 1820



HARBURY CHURCH, c. 1820



HUNNINGHAM CHURCH, c. 1820

of Rugby which later supplanted it, was first granted in 1265\* but was obsolete by the mid 17th century. To the north and east of the village the parish is traversed by the Oxford Canal; and the main lines of the L.M.S.R. (from the embankment of which the church is well seen) and L.N.E.R. cross the parish, Rugby Station on the latter being very near its western boundary.

On the Rugby–Northampton road, immediately east of the two railway bridges in the parish, is a cottage divided into two tenements. It has a plastered front of the second half of the 18th century, but its roof pitch and slight internal traces of timber-framing indicate a much earlier date, perhaps the 16th century.

In the upper village are the remains of a 14th-century stone cross. It has a graduated and moulded base about 8 ft. high, above which is a simply moulded shaft of red sandstone surviving to a height of 7 ft. In the village on the south side of the road, slightly west of the cross, is a house (No. 88) with 17th-century timber-framing internally, now cased in brick of the second quarter of the 18th century, with a modillioned eaves-cornice.

Two hundred yards farther west is a house ('Handley Cross') now divided into two tenements, having a central hall between two cross wings. Although the plan is of an early type, the gables of the wings suggest by their pitch a date in the first half of the 16th century. The hall is not open to the roof, having an attic which connects the upper story of the wings. A beam with stopped chamfers extends from a fireplace at the west end of the hall to the outer wall of the east wing. The only timbering visible externally is at the rear of the house, and this has been considerably altered from its original arrangement.

Farther west are two 17th-century cottages which have dormers and square-panelled timber-framing with diagonal braces resting on a rubble base.

In the lower part of the village about ¼ mile south of the church is a house having square-panelled timber-framing of the 17th century.

Windmills are mentioned in 1582<sup>5</sup> and 1604.<sup>6</sup> An Inclosure Act for 16½ yardlands or 569 acres was passed in 1753.<sup>7</sup> Extensive inclosure had occurred early in the 17th century, as in 1633 Mary Astley, widow, was said to be responsible for the decay of fifteen houses and 250 acres of arable.<sup>8</sup>

James Petiver (1663–1718), botanist and entomologist, was a native of Hillmorton.<sup>9</sup> In September 1642 Nehemiah Wharton passed with his regiment through Hillmorton, 'where we had a supply of drink, which upon a march is a very rare and extraordinary welcome'.<sup>10</sup> The church tower and bells were in a bad way about this time, and were ordered to be repaired in 1653 by levy 'according to the pound rent of every man's land'.<sup>11</sup> In 1666 Hillmorton, whose inhabitants 'have not many poor of their own to maintain' was ordered to make a contribution to the maintenance of the poor of Rugby,<sup>12</sup> thus in a manner anticipating the present position, the village having developed as a good-class suburb of Rugby and most of the

intervening land being now occupied by residences of a superior type.

The ownership of land in *HILL-*

*MANORS MORTON* is difficult to establish from Domesday Book owing to the confusion between Morton and Marton, but the 1 hide and one-sixth hide held by Hugh de Gentemaisnil of the king in charge (*in custodia*) certainly refers to Hillmorton, as this holding extended also into the neighbouring parish of Willoughby. Grinchet and Suain had been in possession before 1066.<sup>13</sup> As Hillmorton was later one of the Earl of Warwick's manors, it is probably right to connect it with three small estates of the Count of Meulan in 'Mortone', one (1½ hides) being in 1086 held of him by Mereuin, with who Scrotin and Wallef had held it freely before 1066,<sup>14</sup> and two, of 1 hide and 1 virgate, and half a hide, were held by Wallef, who before 1066 had held the smaller while Scrotin had held the larger portion freely.<sup>15</sup>

In 1166 Philip de Astley<sup>16</sup> (i.e. Astley) was holding three fees of the Earl of Warwick *de vetero feffamento*,<sup>16</sup> part of which, though not specifically so mentioned, was in Hillmorton. In 1242 Thomas de Astley held of the earl one fee in Astley, Morton, and Milverton.<sup>17</sup> This was held, as 1½ fees, in 1316 by Nicholas (son of Andrew) de Astley,<sup>18</sup> representative of the main line of the family, after which date there appears to be no mention of the Warwick overlordship.

In January 1265 Thomas de Astley obtained the grant of a weekly market on Saturday and an annual fair at Midsummer.<sup>19</sup> He was killed later in that year at Evesham, but the grant was renewed in 1268 to his son Thomas, the market being altered to Wednesday, with the right of free warren in his demesne lands added.<sup>20</sup> In 1263 Thomas de Astley, senior, is said to have granted the manor and advowson of Hillmorton to Thomas, his eldest son by his second wife,<sup>21</sup> the father probably retaining a life-interest. This younger Thomas died without offspring before 1284, when his brother Ralph, who was the ancestor of a family that held Hillmorton in direct descent down to the end of the 18th century, claimed and was allowed view of frankpledge, free warren, and the right to hold markets and fairs.<sup>22</sup> Ralph's son Thomas was lord of Morton *cum membris* in 1316,<sup>23</sup> and he and his wife Margery (Charnels) settled the manor, except for a messuage, one carucate, and £12 in rents, on themselves with remainder to their right heirs in 1333.<sup>24</sup> In 1334 Thomas de Astley obtained confirmation of the right to hold a weekly market, in this case on Tuesdays, and an annual fair.<sup>25</sup>

The manor was apparently held by the junior branch of the Astley family of the senior branch settled at Astley near Coventry, as in 1387 it was stated by Sir William de Astley, the last of the senior line, that Thomas de Astley, grandson of the Thomas mentioned



ASTLEY. *Azure a cinquefoil ermine within a border engrailed argent.*

<sup>4</sup> *Cal. Chart. R.* ii, 51. Further grants were made in 1268 and 1334.

<sup>5</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Hil. 24. Eliz.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.* Trin. 2. Jas. I.

<sup>7</sup> Slater, *Engl. Peasantry and Encl.* 302.

The name is misprinted 'Kilmorton'.

<sup>8</sup> S.P. Dom. Chart. I, clxviii, no. 129.

<sup>9</sup> *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

<sup>10</sup> *Cal. S. P. Dom.* 1641–3, p. 391.

<sup>11</sup> *Warw. Co. Records*, iii, 168.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.* v, 28. <sup>13</sup> *P.C.H. Warw.* i, 325.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.* 314.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.* 315.

<sup>16</sup> *Red Bk. of Exch.* (Rolls Ser.), 326.

<sup>17</sup> *Bk. of Fees*, 955.

<sup>18</sup> *Cal. Ing. p.m.* v, 405. Cf. *Add. MS.*

28024, fol. 192v.

<sup>19</sup> *Cal. Chart. R.* ii, 51. <sup>20</sup> *Ibid.* 92.

<sup>21</sup> Dugd. i, 8, 10, quoting MSS. of

Astley family.

<sup>22</sup> *Plac. Quo Warranto* (Rec. Com.),

783–4.

<sup>23</sup> *Feodal Antiq.* v, 176.

<sup>24</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xv), 1749.

<sup>25</sup> *Cal. Chart. R.* iv, 309.



above, held the manor of him by homage and fealty, with scutage at the rate of 20s. annually. William had been given the wardship of Thomas's son Thomas, who had been abducted by his mother Katherine (Bacon) and Thomas Grantewelle and John Huse,<sup>26</sup> but the end of the suit is not recorded.

In 1567 there was a conveyance of the manor between Frances Astley, widow, and Isaac Astley, and Sir William Butte and Edward Walgrave,<sup>27</sup> and a similar transaction in 1593 between Isaac and Mary his wife and Francis and Anthony Warner.<sup>28</sup> His grandson Isaac, created a baronet in 1642,<sup>29</sup> was succeeded by his nephew Jacob, also created a baronet (1660).<sup>30</sup> The latter, with his wife Blanche (Wodehouse) and son Philip, conveyed the manor in 1690 to John Brereton and Francis Carver.<sup>31</sup> The last Astley to hold interests in Hillmorton was Sir Edward, who was lord in 1764-5.<sup>32</sup> He presumably sold it to one of the Yardleys, as in 1784 the manor was held jointly by Thomas Penn Vernon and Mary his wife, and Alice and Martha Yardley.<sup>33</sup> In 1818 Barbara Yelverton<sup>34</sup> was lady of the manor, and she was vouchee in a recovery as late as 1831,<sup>35</sup> in which year she married the 2nd Marquess of Hastings, whose family were connected with the Hastings barony conferred upon the Astley family in 1841;<sup>36</sup> her father, Baron Grey de Ruthin, had a residence at Brandon near Coventry and her mother Anna Maria (Kelham) was a farmer's daughter of Ryton-on-Dunsmore,<sup>37</sup> both near Hillmorton. In 1850 Thomas Townsend was lord of the manor,<sup>38</sup> and his only child, Mary Anne, married (Sir) John Charles Bucknill, M.D., who was a leading authority on the treatment of insanity and wrote works dealing with the psychology of Shakespeare and the mad persons portrayed in his plays.<sup>39</sup> He died in 1897 and was succeeded by his son Col. J. T. Bucknill.<sup>40</sup>

Another hide in 'Mortone', probably Hillmorton, which before 1066 had been held freely by Wiching, was in 1086 in the hands of Richard the Forester, or Cheven, being then worth 20s.<sup>41</sup> In 1252 it was recorded that he had been enfeoffed of half a carucate in (Hill)morton by William the Conqueror, the value of which was 16s. Richard's grandson Walter (Croc) had granted it to William de Morton to hold as one-fifth of a knight's fee, and William's son Henry had parted with some of the land.<sup>42</sup> In 1198 Henry de Morton had held land for one plough (*waignagium 1 caruce*) valued at 20s. of Hugh de Loges,<sup>43</sup> the representative of Richard Cheven. In 1300 these lands, here definitely said to be in 'Hullemorton', were held by Richard de Loges as part of his manor of Chesterton, held by grand serjeanty and the service of keeping the forest of Cannock (Staffs.).<sup>44</sup>

Small properties in Hillmorton were granted for

religious purposes. In 1329 William Poyntel of Lutterworth (Leics.) was licensed to alienate 8 messuages and 1½ virgates in Hillmorton to St. John Baptist Hospital at Lutterworth, for daily celebration of masses for the souls of himself, his wife, and their ancestors.<sup>45</sup> Two similar chantries were founded in Hillmorton parish church, one in 1334 by Thomas de Astley, endowed with a messuage and a carucate of land,<sup>46</sup> and dedicated to St. Mary. This was probably absorbed by another chantry of St. Mary founded in 1342 by Sir Edmund Trussell, second husband of Margery Astley,<sup>47</sup> which was endowed with 4 messuages, 50 acres of land and 7 of meadow, and 26s. of rent.<sup>48</sup> The value of the Trussell chantry when suppressed in 1545 was £4 18s. 10d. clear.<sup>49</sup> In 1247 Lady Elisant, widow of Osbert de Clinton, gave a messuage in Hulle on the west of her 'court' and other lands and rents to endow a chantry for the souls of herself, her ancestors, and heirs in the chapel of St. James in Hulle.<sup>50</sup> In 1344 Thomas de Morton received licence to alienate a messuage, a virgate, and 4 acres of land and a rood of meadow to endow a chaplain to celebrate mass daily in the chapel of St. James, Hulle, for the souls of himself and his relatives.<sup>51</sup> At its suppression this chantry was worth £2 6s. 8d.<sup>52</sup> The properties providing endowments for these chantries were in 1549 granted to Thomas Fyscher and Thomas Dabrigecourte,<sup>53</sup> saving annual rents of 8d. to John Astley, 'lord of Hulmoreton', and 8d. to the master of St. John Baptist Hospital in Lutterworth for its property in Hillmorton.

The Count of Meulan and Henry, Earl of Warwick, gave to the Abbey of Préaux, c. 1080, tithes in 'Mortona',<sup>54</sup> which may be Hillmorton.

The church of **ST. JOHN THE CHURCH BAPTIST** stands on a slight eminence in the north-east of the parish, some distance from the two principal centres of population. It consists of a chancel, nave, north and south aisles, south porch, and west tower.

The earliest architectural remains are of the early or mid-13th century, and indicate the existence of a chancel and aisleless nave. Early in the 14th century north and south aisles were added and alterations made to the chancel. The windows in the aisles were mostly rebuilt at later dates, and the wall of the north aisle had buttresses added or rebuilt in 1609. The west tower was built in the 15th century. The date 1655 in its south wall indicates considerable alteration or repair, possibly amounting to a complete rebuilding of the tower. The clearstory is of uncertain date but is certainly a late addition, probably of the second half of the 16th century. The whole church, but especially the chancel, underwent extensive restoration in the late 18th century, when the present pews were put in.

<sup>26</sup> *Wm. Salt Soc.* xv, 4 (De Banco R. Mich. 11 Ric. II).

<sup>27</sup> Feet of F. Div. Cos. East. 9 Eliz.

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.* East. 35 Eliz.

<sup>29</sup> G. E. C., *Compl. Baronetage*, ii, 153.

<sup>30</sup> *Ibid.* iii, 56.

<sup>31</sup> Feet of F. Div. Cos. Mich. 2 Wm. & Mary.

<sup>32</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations, Shire Hall, Warwick.

<sup>33</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>34</sup> *Ibid.* She was Baroness Grey in her own right.

<sup>35</sup> *Recov. R. Trin. 1 Wm. IV.* r. 155.

<sup>36</sup> G. E. C., *Compl. Peerage* (2nd ed.), vi,

368; Nichols, *Leics.* iii, 607.

<sup>37</sup> G. E. C., *Compl. Peerage* (2nd ed.), vi, 163.

<sup>38</sup> White, *Directory Warw.* 659.

<sup>39</sup> *Dict. Nat. Biog.*, 1st Suppl.

<sup>40</sup> P.R.O. Manorial List.

<sup>41</sup> *P.C.H. Warw.* i, 342. Dugdale places this holding in Marton. If all the Domesday holdings here traced refer to Hillmorton there is no mention of Marton in Domesday Book.

<sup>42</sup> *Bk. of Fees*, 1278.

<sup>43</sup> *Ibid.* 8.

<sup>44</sup> *Cal. Ing. p.m.* iii, 593 (p. 446). Cf. *Wm. Salt Soc.* vi (1), 90.

<sup>45</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1327-30, p. 396.

<sup>46</sup> *Ibid.* 1330-4, p. 560.

<sup>47</sup> Baker, *Northants.* i, 154.

<sup>48</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1340-3, p. 565. Ordination of the chantry by Bishop Northburgh: *Wm. Salt Soc.* i, 277.

<sup>49</sup> Dugdale MS. (Bodl.), 9, fol. 470.

<sup>50</sup> *Magnum Reg. Album* (Wm. Salt Soc.), nos. 133, 551, 552. The identity of Elisant, of whose inheritance the land was, is not known.

<sup>51</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1343-5, p. 354.

<sup>52</sup> Dugdale MS. (Bodl.), 9, fol. 470.

<sup>53</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1548-9, p. 343.

<sup>54</sup> *Cal. Doc. France*, 108.

In the early 19th century a south porch and west gallery were added.

The chancel has a 14th-century east window of four pointed lights with the mullions carried up and intersecting in the two-centred head. The jambs and mullions are moulded with two adjacent hollows, and there is a plain external hood-mould. Externally the apex of the window bears the date 1640, when, probably, the head and the tracery within it were renewed in a yellowish-brown ironstone.<sup>55</sup> The sill and central mullion are of red sandstone, which seems to have been the material most used for the ashlar dressings of the original chancel; the jambs are of a crumbling white stone.

At the west end of the north wall is a window in grey sandstone with a sunk chamfer in its jambs and two-centred head, and an external hood-mould stopped on badly-weathered heads. The east jamb has been repaired with cement. The widely splayed and considerably displaced rear-arch has a chamfered segmental pointed head. The south wall has in the east half a window with a two-centred head, of two pointed lights with chamfered forked mullion and a piercing in the head, and in the west half a 13th-century lancet. Each has a plain external hood-mould and chamfered jambs and head. Like the east window they have wide-splayed rear-arches with a chamfered segmental-pointed head of white stone. The jambs of both windows, and the mullions of the former, still display the red sandstone in which they were originally built; successive repairs have been effected in a white stone, now badly crumbled, and in cement.

The east wall is built of small coursed rubble, except for a large repair at the top and the shallow gable, which are of brick. The north and south walls are of coursed rubble, externally faced with brick which, at the west end of the north wall and on the south wall, is concealed by stucco. At the east angles are diagonal buttresses of two offsets with ashlar dressings in the wall above them; the north and south walls have each an intermediate brick buttress, the latter being faced with ashlar. The east wall has a very low plinth formed by a single projecting course of masonry; each angle buttress has a chamfered plinth, that at the south-east being much higher than its fellow. The modern slated chancel roof is of low pitch, with a moulded eaves-cornice and below this a moulded string-course, both of late-18th- or early-19th-century date.

The early-14th-century chancel arch is two-centred, of two chamfered orders, the outer continuous with its responds, the inner carried on moulded capitals above semi-octagonal responds. From floor-level to a height of 3 ft. 6 in. the responds of the outer order are of plain square section; to the same height the inner responds have a double chamfer.

The nave has north and south arcades of five bays, the three middle ones being about 10 ft., those to east and west slightly shorter. The responds at each end of the arcades are smaller on plan than the octagonal pillars, although their impost mouldings are similar to the capitals of the north arcade and the easternmost pillar of the south arcade, which are moulded alike; those of the other two pillars are moulded differently

from them and from each other. The moulded bases of the pillars are mostly concealed by pews. Just above impost and capital on the nave side is a human head carving. The east impost of the north arcade is considerably defaced, perhaps to accommodate a screen; a bulge in the wall plaster above may perhaps indicate the head of the rood-loft stairs.

The clearstory, probably built in the 16th century, has on each side five mullioned windows of two square-headed lights; jambs, head, and mullion have a quarter-round hollow moulding. The clearstory is built of limestone rubble intermixed, especially on the south side, with yellow sandstone. The ashlar angle dressings are of red sandstone. The lintel of the fourth window from the east on the north side is a modern restoration. The nave roof is of low pitch, covered in lead, with slightly cambered tie-beam, and sloping braces, and wall-posts with brackets carried on corbels. The ridge and purlins are moulded, and the tie-beams have carved bosses; the fifth of the moulded wall-posts on the north side has at its base a carved female head.

The east wall of the north aisle has a 15th-century pointed window, divided into three lights by mullions which continue vertically up to the soffit. The middle light has a round-lobed trefoil head; the side lights have each a small chamfered ogee on the head and pierced spandrels. The hood-mould is stopped on badly weathered heads; the rear-arch has splayed jambs and a chamfered head. At the south end of the wall is a trefoiled ogee-headed piscina.

The north wall is divided by five buttresses into five bays, with an additional diagonal buttress at the north-west angle; those at the angles have two and the remainder three offsets. All have low, badly worn plinths and are of ashlar with brick repairs. The fifth from the east formerly had on the face a panel carved with the date 1609, the initials I.S., and crude representations of a horse, quatrefoils, and other ornaments.<sup>56</sup> At this date the buttresses and possibly parts of the wall were probably built or rebuilt. The wall was built of coursed rubble, but the four western bays now show extensive brick repairs. In the blind easternmost bay is the effigy of a priest in a tomb recess which has a segmental pointed arch moulded with three, and a hood moulded with two, adjacent hollows. The windows of the second, third, and fifth bays are similar, being square-headed with two trefoiled ogee-headed lights and hollowed-out external spandrels. They are mainly of red sandstone. The jambs and mullions are chamfered and the rear-arch has a plain square head. The 14th-century north door has a considerably displaced two-centred head of two chamfered orders continuous in the jambs, and a hood-mould with much-worn head-stops.

The west window of the north aisle has three pointed lights, with mullions intersecting in a two-centred head, and a hood-mould with head-stops. The wall is of large coursed rubble. The lean-to roof may be in part ancient; it rests against the nave arcade on eight irregularly spaced corbels, and is covered with lead.

The east window of the south aisle has three trefoiled pointed lights and vertical tracery under a two-centred head. The jambs are moulded, the mullions

<sup>55</sup> The whole window was ascribed to this date by M. H. Bloxam (*Principles of Gothic Ecclesiastical Architecture* (8th edn. 1881), i, 287-8), but the intersecting mullions are characteristic of the early

14th century; similar mouldings are found in a tomb-recess in the north aisle, undoubtedly of medieval date; and ironstone ashlar appears to have been used only for 17th-century work in this church.

<sup>56</sup> See sketch in J. A. Cossins's MS. 'Notes on Warwickshire Churches', i, 137.

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chamfered, and there is a hood-mould stopped on heads. The pointed rear-arch has slightly splayed jambs. Near the angle formed with the chancel wall a vertical joint can be seen to a height of about 12 ft., this indicating the width of the original aisleless nave. The ancient ashlar angle-dressings are clearly visible; north of them is walling similar to the east wall of the chancel, while the remainder is of coursed ashlar with brick repairs and a moulded double plinth. Abutting against the south wall is an ambury which shows no signs of rebates or door-hinges. Near it in the south wall is a piscina having a two-centred pointed head moulded with two adjacent hollows. The drain is intact, and on the west side, only, is a slot for a credence table.

The south wall is divided into three bays of unequal size by four ashlar buttresses of two offsets; the second from the east has a scratch dial. In each bay is a square-headed window, with moulded jambs, divided by a heavy chamfered mullion. Each half of the window contains two trefoiled ogee-headed lights with two short vertical tracery-bars rising above the ogees to the soffit. The tracery of the westernmost window is heavily restored, but the presence of a course of large 18th-century bricks in the sill would appear to denote that the window itself is ancient.<sup>57</sup> In the middle bay is the south door, of two moulded orders under a four-centred head; the rear-arch has slightly splayed jambs and a narrow chamfer in the head. In front of it is the early-19th-century porch, having a four-centred door-head beneath a shallow gable which is finished with a moulded stone coping. The west wall of the south aisle is of large coursed ashlar and contains a modern copy of the window at the east end. The modern lean-to roof is of low pitch, covered with slates.

All the walls are plastered internally, with the exception of the chancel.

The west tower is of large coursed sandstone ashlar; its north and west walls are divided by three slight offsets into four stages. At the north-west and south-west angles are opposed buttresses of three offsets, around which the moulded plinth of the tower breaks. The topmost offset of the buttresses terminates at the second offset of the walls. At the south-east angle is a projecting stair vice lit by three loops. The north face is blind in the first and second stages, and in the top stage has a window of two cinquefoiled pointed lights under a blind four-centred head. The west face has a square-headed door of the 18th century with a wooden frame and splayed internal reveals of brick. Above it is a window with a trefoil-cusped two-centred head, moulded in the jambs with two hollow chamfers separated by a quirk. In the top stage is a window similar to that in the north face except that it has in the head a triangular projection containing two small piercings. The south face has in the second stage a fairly wide window with two chamfered orders in its two-centred head and jambs. In the top stage the window is like that in the north face. At this stage in the east face is a window like that in the west. All four have elliptical-headed rear-arches. The tower has a slated pyramidal roof, and battlements which bear a simple moulding carried round the merlons. An offset

in the walls marks the division between the battlements and two or three courses below, which are of a grey stone, and the rest of the tower. On the south face below the topmost window is a square panel of yellow stone which formerly had an inscription and the date 1655<sup>58</sup> upon it; both are now completely worn away. A puzzling feature of the tower is the internal arrangement of the ringing chamber, the floor-level of which has been lowered so that it now blocks the head of the inner tower arch and west window. The original floor-level is indicated by an offset in the south wall for the floor joists. Set in the south-east angle below the door from the vice is a stone block which has at its edge shallow rebates, seemingly too small for floor joists; its purpose is obscure. The east wall of the tower is extremely thick (about 7 ft.) and the opening to the nave has two arches, the eastern one being obscured by the organ, and the western by modern alterations. The former is chamfered, with crudely moulded capitals and bases; the latter is pointed, of three chamfered orders, of which the two outer orders die into the wall and the innermost is carried on semi-octagonal responds. A western gallery, built in the late 18th century, occupies the last bay of the nave; in it is an organ.

The pews were put in in 1774;<sup>59</sup> those at the west end of the south aisle have been removed to make way for a vestry, which is separated from the body of the church by wooden screens and is lined internally with the panelling and doors of the demolished pews.

Above the chancel arch is an oval-shaped wooden panel painted with the arms of Queen Anne after 1707.

There are three monumental effigies in the church. In the recess in the north aisle is the figure of a priest in eucharistic vestments with alb, short chasuble, and maniple, carved about 1348, and possibly representing William de Walton.<sup>60</sup> The monument was much damaged on one side when the pews were inserted in the latter part of the 18th century. In the second bay of the south arcade, partially concealed by pews, is the badly mutilated sandstone effigy of a knight, dating from about 1345 and probably representing Thomas de Astley.<sup>61</sup> The hands are joined in prayer and the left leg is crossed over the right, but the arms and left side of the figure together with the shield have been broken and worn away. He wears a bascinet helmet and camail, steel or leather plates on the legs, and kneecaps. Other surviving features of his dress are sollerets and a rowel-spur, and an ornamented sword-belt. The feet rest on a lion. The monument has been much disfigured, apparently by the sharpening of tools or weapons upon it. Opposite it in the middle of the south aisle is the contemporary effigy of a lady beneath a cinquefoiled gable canopy. She is probably Margaret, his wife.<sup>62</sup> Flanking the main gable of the canopy are two gabled trefoil-headed niches, each containing a figure, the one on the left holding an open book, the one on the right a scroll. The gable is supported by two corbel-figures, on the left a hooded centaur, on the right a cloaked figure with his right arm on a staff or crutch. The lady is wearing a close cote-hardie with sleeves reaching to the knuckles, and over it a mantle, gathered under the arms and fastened at the neck with

<sup>57</sup> A drawing in the Ayleford Collection shows here a window of two lights only.

<sup>58</sup> According to annotated plan in J. A. Cossins's MS. 'Notes on Warwickshire Churches'; i (B.R.L.); Bloxam in *Some*

*Account of the Parish of Hillmorton* (1872) says it had the initials of the churchwardens and three others. Bloxam (*Gothic Eccl. Arch.*, 1882), i, 288 declares this to be the date the tower was built.

<sup>59</sup> Cossins, op. cit. 134.

<sup>60</sup> *B'ham Arch. Soc. Trans.* xlix, 32.

<sup>61</sup> *Ibid.* xlviii, 47-8.

<sup>62</sup> *Ibid.* xlix, 77-8.

a cord. She has a wimple and veil, and her feet rest on two pet dogs.

South of this monument, beneath a trapdoor in the floor-boards of the pews, is a brass to a lady, about 1410,<sup>61</sup> and similar to one at Merevale. She is dressed in a cote-hardie, the sleeves of which reach to the knuckles, and over it has a mantle fastened by a cord. Her hair is coiled and braided in nets, with which she wears a wimple or kerchief. At her feet are two pet dogs. From her hands rises a scroll which formerly encircled the head, but considerable parts of it are now missing. The remaining lettering reads: 'Ave . . . fruct' ventris tui. Ihu. fili dei misere mei'. In the top part of the slab are two empty matrices of shields.

On the north wall of the north aisle is a memorial to Edward Bromwich and Mary his wife, who died in 1741 and 1783 respectively. Two educational charities, established by Edward Abbott in 1799 and James Thompson in 1823, are commemorated on the north and south walls respectively. In the south aisle is a tablet to several members of the Sutton family who died between 1784 and 1800.

On the east wall of the south porch is a lead panel, cast in 1719 and inscribed with the names of John Bosworth and John Green, churchwardens, and William Sharman of Rugby, plumber.

There are five bells, cast in 1731 by Thomas Russell of Wootton (Beds.), two of which bear the names of subscribers to their cost.<sup>64</sup>

The 12th-century font is a plain inverted truncated cone standing on a modern base.

The plate includes an Elizabethan chalice and paten, the latter dated on the foot 1571.

The registers begin in 1564 but are not complete from that date.

The first recorded presentation, by *ADFOVSON* Thomas de Astley of his brother Philip, is undated, but occurred before 1265, when Thomas was killed at the battle of Evesham.<sup>65</sup> In 1343 the church was appropriated to the college of Astley,<sup>66</sup> newly founded by the senior branch of the family, and a vicarage was ordained in 1346.<sup>67</sup> The advowson, like the other properties of this college, was in 1546 granted to Henry, Marquess of Dorset, and Frances his wife,<sup>68</sup> and was in possession of the latter at her death in 1559.<sup>69</sup> It then passed to the Marquess of Hertford, husband of her second daughter, who presented in 1565.<sup>70</sup> Probably owing to the validity of this marriage being questioned the patronage reverted to the Crown, and was granted in 1577-8 to Christopher Chute for 21 years,<sup>71</sup> and renewed to the same in 1589-90.<sup>72</sup> Another grant was made in 1608-9 to Francis Philip and Richard More,<sup>73</sup> who must have parted with their interest fairly soon, for in 1621 the advowson was conveyed by John Stratford and his sons John, Robert, and Edward to Francis Astley,<sup>74</sup> thus becoming reunited with the manor, with which it descended till the late 18th century, Sir Jacob presenting in 1758.<sup>75</sup> Since then the patronage has passed through a variety of hands,

William Grove and Jeremiah Lowe presenting in 1793 and Charles Newcomb in 1805.<sup>76</sup> These may have been by concession, as Sir Jacob Astley was said to be patron in 1830,<sup>77</sup> and the Baroness Grey de Ruthin in 1831.<sup>78</sup> R. Stanley was patron in 1850<sup>79</sup> and 1859,<sup>80</sup> and in 1905 and 1915 the rector of Rugby.<sup>81</sup> Since at least 1926 the patronage has been in the hands of trustees.<sup>82</sup>

The value of the rectory in 1291 was £12<sup>83</sup> and of the vicarage in 1535 £6 10s. 6d. plus 8s. for procurations and synodals.<sup>84</sup>

Two acres of meadow in Kilmershe called the Church Headland were devoted to the upkeep of a 'torchlight' in Hillmorton church at mass.<sup>85</sup>

The Abbott Charity for Poor. *CHARITIES* Edward Abbott by will dated 11 July

1799 gave £50 to purchase bread with the interest thereof, to be distributed among all the most necessitous poor of this parish at or about Christmas yearly. The annual income of the charity amounts to £1 4s.

Sir Edward Astley by indenture dated 13 December 1770 reciting that Sir Edward Astley and some of his ancestors had for several years past directed the sum of 2s. a week to be laid out in bread for the poor of this parish, granted to trustees certain property in the parish of Hillmorton upon trust out of the rents and profits thereof weekly to lay out 2s. in the purchase of a dozen twopenny loaves and to distribute the same every Sunday after divine service to such of the poor of the parish who should have attended the service (unless disabled by sickness) as the vicar and churchwardens should think proper, and to apply the residue in repairing the premises and for such other purposes as the trustees should think best. The annual income of the charity amounts to £29 approximately.

Small Church Close Poor Charity. By the Award made in pursuance of an Act passed in 26 George II for inclosing the open and common fields of the manor and parish of Hillmorton, the Commissioners awarded to the churchwardens and constable of the parish a parcel of ground in Thurnborough Field containing 3a. 1r. 12p. to employ the rents firstly in keeping in repair the hedges, ditches, and fences around part of the land allotted to the vicar and in the next place for the relief of the poor, the repairing of the roads, or other parish uses. By an Order made by the Charity Commissioners on 6 August 1897 the yearly sum of £2 10s. now constitutes the endowment of the Small Church Close Ecclesiastical Charity and the remainder of the endowment forms the Small Church Close Poor Charity. The annual income of the Poor Charity amounts to £4 10s.

The Abbott Charity for Poor, the Charity of Sir Edward Astley, and the Small Church Close Poor Charity are regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 9 April 1935.

Church Land. By the above-mentioned Award a parcel of ground in the Westerland Field containing 19a. 3r. 10p. was awarded to the said churchwardens and constable in trust to appropriate the rents and

<sup>61</sup> Rev. E. W. Badger, *Monumental Brasses of Warwickshire*.

<sup>64</sup> Tilley and Walters, *Church Bells of Warwick*, 171.

<sup>65</sup> Dugd. 20, 107; Lichf. Dean and Chapter records.

<sup>66</sup> Cal. Pat. 1343-5, p. 114.

<sup>67</sup> Wm. Salt Soc. i, 277.

<sup>68</sup> L. and P. Hen. VIII, xxi (1), 1537 (7).

<sup>69</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cxxviii, 91.

<sup>70</sup> Dugd. 20, quoting Lichf. episc. regs.

<sup>71</sup> Pat. 20 Eliz. pt. 2.

<sup>72</sup> Ibid. 32 Eliz. pt. 2.

<sup>73</sup> Ibid. 6 Jas. I, pt. 7.

<sup>74</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Hil. 18 Jas. I.

<sup>75</sup> Bacon, *Liber Regis* (1786), 220.

<sup>76</sup> Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.)

<sup>77</sup> West, *Directory of Warwick*.

<sup>78</sup> Lewis, *Topog. Diet.*

<sup>79</sup> White, *Directory of Warwick*, (1850).

<sup>80</sup> Clergy List. <sup>81</sup> Ibid. <sup>82</sup> Crockford.

<sup>83</sup> Tax. Ecl. (Rec. Com.), 242.

<sup>84</sup> Palor Ecl. (Rec. Com.), iii. 613.

<sup>85</sup> Exch. Spec. Com. 1440, 19 Eliz.



# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

profits for the repairs of the church, bells, frames, ropes, bread and wine for the communion, repairs of ways and causeways to the church, for relief of the poor and mending the highways in Hillmorton. The land was sold in 1923 and the proceeds of sale invested, producing an annual income of £40 16s.

John Allibone Langton by will dated 14 January 1918 gave to the vicar and churchwardens of Hillmorton £1,000, the income to be applied first in maintaining the tombstones of the testator and his relatives in the churchyard of Hillmorton, and next towards maintaining and where necessary the rebuilding of the parish church and the maintenance of the churchyard, and empowered the vicar and churchwardens to apply a reasonable sum out of the income

towards the annual children's school treat held in connexion with the church. The annual income of the charity amounts to £45 approximately.

The Perkins Charity. By a Declaration of Trust dated 8 December 1899 £100 was settled upon trust that the income thereon should be paid to the vicar of Hillmorton to distribute the same at Christmas among deserving poor women over the age of 60 years resident in the parish at his absolute discretion, provided that the graves and tombstones in the churchyard of Hillmorton, mentioned in the schedule to the Declaration of Trust, should be kept in order, and that the inscriptions on the tombstones should be cleaned and recut from time to time. The annual income of the charity amounts to £2 12s. 10d.

## HODNELL

To the south of Ladbroke is a block of sparsely populated country formed by the districts of Hodnell (521 acres: population in 1931, 9), Chapel Ascote (604 acres, population, 14), Watergall (553 acres, population, 16) and Wills Pastures (149 acres, population, 7). These originally formed the parish of Hodnell, of which the church, or chapel, was situated in Ascote. At the time of the Domesday Survey there were on the various estates into which the vill had become divided (see below) 31 customary tenants, representing a population of about 150. In 1332 there were 16 persons contributing to the subsidy,<sup>1</sup> so that, allowing for the exemption of the poorest, the population had not apparently fallen noticeably. Whether this district was ravaged by the Black Death is not known, but by the 15th century it was depopulated, so that in 1428 there were only four householders.<sup>2</sup> By the end of the 16th century the church was in ruins and the whole parish had been inclosed and converted into pasture. By 1638 Watergall and Hodnell had been annexed to the parish of Fenny Compton, whither the inhabitants resorted for divine service.<sup>3</sup> Next year these pastures or hamlets with that of Chapel Ascote were said to have 'never no poor at all in them' and were therefore to contribute to the support of the poor in Naptun; the shepherds who were the only inhabitants were then appointed overseers of the poor;<sup>4</sup> in 1651 they were presented for not having collected the rates from Lady Kingsmill's lands, worth £500, in Chapel Ascote and 'Whittington' (now Weddington).<sup>5</sup> Two years later, it being reported that Hodnell was 'anciently an eminent parish . . . before the depopulation thereof by enclosure and the appropriation of the rectory to the late nunnery of Nun Eaton, but for many years past the estate being in great men's hands . . . those lands with Chappell Ascott and the rest of the parish being of the value of £1500 by the year bear no charges in . . . things belonging to the constable's office', an attempt was made to make one of the shepherds serve as constable.<sup>6</sup> It was found, however, that the only inhabitants of Hodnell, Watergall, and Ascote were three shepherds 'which never used to serve as constables within the memory of man'.<sup>7</sup> At some later date these hamlets became detached from Fenny Compton and

after a period of existence as extra-parochial townships have now, with Radbourne, become absorbed into Southam Rural District.<sup>8</sup>

Hodnell and Chapel Ascote are separated by the road running north from Banbury to Southam and are divided from Watergall and Wills Pastures (or Lower Hodnell) on the south by the River Itchen, of which a branch, or tributary, forms the south-western boundary of Watergall. The country is open, with few trees, and lies mostly at elevations between 300 and 350 ft., but in the northern part of the parish heights slightly over 400 ft. are reached at Hodnell Manor Farm and Weddington Hill in Ascote. It was probably here that stood the windmill, worth 6s. 8d. yearly, belonging to the Priory of Nuneaton in 1291,<sup>9</sup> and leased by the nuns in 1321 to William Fryday,<sup>10</sup> and its successor which John Horseley held of Sir John Seyntlowe in 1547.<sup>11</sup>

Before the Conquest *HODNELL* *CONMANORS* situated a 10-hide vill. By 1066 it was divided between three tenants, Ordric holding 5 hides, Ulnod 4 hides, and Alwi one hide. In 1086 four of Ordric's five hides were held of the Count of Meulan by Gilbert<sup>12</sup> and the fifth was held by Godwin of Turchill,<sup>13</sup> who himself held Ulnod's 4 hides;<sup>14</sup> Alwi's hide was in the hands of William son of Corbucion, of whom it was held by Roger.<sup>15</sup> The overlordship of the count's and Turchill's estates came to the Earls of Warwick, who may also have acquired the remainder, as there is no later trace of any Corbucion interest in this neighbourhood.

In the 12th century the earl apparently enfeoffed Hugh son of Richard here, as they both confirmed the gift of land here, described as the whole vill and held of Hugh as one knight's fee, made by Richard de Ubestocha of Burton in about 1160 to Nuneaton Priory.<sup>16</sup> That priory in 1291 held 5 carucates of land in Hodnell and Ascote, worth £2 10s., rents to the value of £6 2s., and a windmill worth 6s. 8d.<sup>17</sup> In 1535 the demesnes had been let to Thomas Spencer for £11 13s. 10d., but were in the occupation of John Awdeley.<sup>18</sup> After the Dissolution the Nuneaton lordship of Hodnell was granted in 1540 to Sir Marmaduke Constable,<sup>19</sup> who sold it two years later to Sir

Richard's sons, confirmed the grant (ibid. 48139, 48141), as did William's son Hugh (ibid. 48142).

<sup>17</sup> *Tax. Eccl. (Rec. Com.)*, 256.

<sup>18</sup> *Valor Eccl. (Rec. Com.)*, iii, 76.

<sup>19</sup> *Mon. Bailiff's Accts. (Dugd. Soc.)*, 71; *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xv, 733 (67).

<sup>1</sup> *Lay Subsidy Roll (Dugd. Soc.)*, 28.

<sup>2</sup> *Feud. Aids*, v, 187.

<sup>3</sup> *Warw. Co. Recs.* ii, 19.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.* 38.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.* 151.

<sup>6</sup> *Kelly, Direct. of Warw.* (1936).

<sup>7</sup> *Tax. Eccl. (Rec. Com.)*, 256.

<sup>10</sup> *Add. Chart.* 49392.

<sup>11</sup> *Cat. Anct. Deeds*, vi, C. 7674.

<sup>12</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* i, 314.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.* 321.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.* 333.

<sup>15</sup> *Add. Charters.* 47394 (1), 48137,

48144. William and Henry De Borthons,



John Seyntlowe.<sup>20</sup> He, in turn, had licence in 1547 to sell his manors of Hodnell and Ascote to John Coope.<sup>21</sup> Apparently Sir John Coope sold the manors to Thomas Wilkes in 1551,<sup>22</sup> but it would seem that, probably because he had not obtained licence to alienate, they were taken into the hands of the Crown and granted in 1552 to Edward Pynes, Lord Clinton and Saye,<sup>23</sup> being at the time mostly in the tenure of John Spencer and Thomas Bramfield. He promptly obtained licence to alienate to Anthony Coope,<sup>24</sup> who in 1554 joined with Sir John Coope, Mary Coope, widow, and others to convey the manors to Thomas Wilkes,<sup>25</sup> merchant of the Staple. In his will,<sup>26</sup> dated 16 August 1558, he directed his executors to discharge the manor of Hodnell of an annuity of £200 payable during her life to Margaret wife of Sir John Seyntlowe, and to use the issues of the manor and other lands for the relief of poor scholars of St. John's College, Cambridge, and Magdalen College, Oxford, and other charitable works. His wife Joan was to have the plate and household stuff at Hodnell, so long as she resided there at least six months in the year. He died on 6 January 1559,<sup>27</sup> his heir being his brother William, who died in 1573.<sup>28</sup> On the death of William's son Robert, under age, in 1577 the manors passed to his three sisters<sup>29</sup>—Anne, aged 19 and said then to be wife of Anthony Dryden,<sup>30</sup> Frances, 14, and Margaret, 12. The manors in question were Hodnell, Old Hodnell, Ascote, and Hooks (and also Radbourne), and it is not easy to decide precisely what these represented.

Late in the 12th century William Angevin granted land in Hodnell to Combe Abbey, his gift being confirmed by Robert de Taiden.<sup>31</sup> In 1195 William was impleading the same Robert for intrusion upon 9 virgates of land in Hodnell,<sup>32</sup> but died before his case was heard, and next year his son Niel Angevin was the plaintiff.<sup>33</sup> In 1197 Niel quitclaimed the 9 virgates to Robert de Taiden and his son Henry, and in return they gave him two half-virgates of that land to hold of them with 2 other virgates which he already held.<sup>34</sup> Lettice de Teydene,<sup>35</sup> who was daughter of a later Henry,<sup>36</sup> in 1281 conveyed to her relative<sup>37</sup> John de Brives, or Bruys, a messuage, a carucate of land, and 10 acres of meadow in Hodnell.<sup>38</sup> Already, in 1269, Beatrice, daughter of Henry de Terays, had released to Sir Robert de Brives (John's father) all her right in the manor of Hodnell and in all the lands late of Paulin de Tayden and Henry de Terays.<sup>39</sup> This constituted the quarter-fee of *HODNELL BRUIZ*, held c. 1330 by Robert Burnel, 'who had married the heiress'.<sup>40</sup> Robert, who styles himself lord of Hodnell in 1316,<sup>41</sup>

was apparently the nephew of his namesake the Bishop of Bath and Wells.<sup>42</sup> John Burnel is said to have held one-eighth fee here in 1346,<sup>43</sup> but in 1400<sup>44</sup> and in 1403<sup>45</sup> the quarter-fee of Hodnell Bruiz was held by the Prioress of Nuneaton.

In 1235 the fees of the Earl of Warwick included half a fee in Hodnell and Ludington held by Henry le Franseiz and William de Ludinton,<sup>46</sup> of which the Hodnell portion may be that just dealt with; a quarter fee in Hodnell held by Osbert; and one-fifth fee held by Gurmund.<sup>47</sup> This last is described in 1242 as one-fifth fee in *HODNELL GURMUNT*, held by Thomas Gurmunt of Thomas de Arden, who held of the earl.<sup>48</sup> John Gurmund and his son Richard occur at the end of the 13th century;<sup>49</sup> Richard Gurmund was tenant in 1316,<sup>50</sup> and Simon Gurmund in 1346.<sup>51</sup> In 1428 return was made of a quarter fee formerly held by Simon Gurmund in *OLD HODNELL*.<sup>52</sup> This manor, with land in 'Howkes next Astcoytt', was sold by Thomas Spencer and John and Giles, his brothers, in 1546 to Sir John Seyntlowe<sup>53</sup> and so came, as already mentioned, to Thomas Wilkes. This Thomas Spencer was the son of John Spencer who had died on 4 January 1497 seised of 20 virgates in Ascote.<sup>54</sup>

The Osbert mentioned in 1235 was probably Osbert la Noreis who married the sister of Henry, son of Robert de Thaiden,<sup>55</sup> and, with the assent of his wife Columbine, gave ½ virgate in Hodnell to Philip de Mutton,<sup>56</sup> who acquired other land by his marriage with Isoult, sister of Stephen and William de Lodinton.<sup>57</sup> In 1242 Simon de Hodehull, possibly successor of the Osbert mentioned above, was returned as holding half a fee of Thomas de Arden, who held of the Earl of Warwick in *SHITEN HODNELL*.<sup>58</sup> By 1316 part at least of this, representing one-sixth fee, was held by the Abbot of Combe,<sup>59</sup> who is again returned as tenant of one-sixth fee there in about 1320<sup>60</sup> and in 1400.<sup>61</sup> Not long after the latter date, Thomas, Abbot of Combe, leased the abbey's lands in Hodnell and Ascote, as part of their manor of Radbourne, to Dame Emma Catesby for her life, with remainder to her son John in tail male.<sup>62</sup> John's son Sir William Catesby was renting these lands in 1476,<sup>63</sup> and his son William had a fresh lease of them from the abbey in 1481.<sup>64</sup> The Catesbys had long been accumulating an estate in this district; in 1342 Christiane widow of Robert Burnel granted to William



CATESBY. Argent two lions passant sable crowned or.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid. xvii, 26. Cf. *Cat. Anct. Deeds*, v, C. 7549.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid. C. 76743 *Cal. Pat.* 1547-8, p. 166.

<sup>22</sup> *Cat. Anct. Deeds*, vi, C. 7681.

<sup>23</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1550-3, pp. 371, 373.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid. 432.

<sup>25</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Trin. 1 & 2 Ph. & Mary.

<sup>26</sup> *Cat. Anct. Deeds*, v, A. 13646.

<sup>27</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cxxi, 159.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid. clxvii, 116.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid. clxxix, 102.

<sup>30</sup> There is no other trace of this marriage, nor does Anthony appear in the Dryden pedigrees: Metcalfe, *Vision of Northants*, 178; *Vision of Northants*, 268 f, p. 66.

<sup>31</sup> Dugd. 328.

<sup>32</sup> *Pipe R. Soc. N.S.* vi, 189.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid. vii, 57.

<sup>34</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xi), 12.

<sup>35</sup> The family were connected with Theydon in Essex: Morant, *Essex*, i, 156.

<sup>36</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ii, 160: she was born about 1245.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid.

<sup>38</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xi), 962.

<sup>39</sup> *Cal. Chart. R.* ii, 123.

<sup>40</sup> Add. MS. 28024, fol. 192v.

<sup>41</sup> *Cat. Anct. Deeds*, i, B. 1575.

<sup>42</sup> Eyton, *Sherp.* vi, 134.

<sup>43</sup> Dugd. 328.

<sup>44</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. 2 Hen. IV, no. 58.

<sup>45</sup> *Cal. Close*, 1402-5, p. 74.

<sup>46</sup> This William, or a namesake, confirmed a number of small grants in Ascote made to Combe Abbey: Dugd. 329.

<sup>47</sup> *Bk. of Fees*, 507, 508, 512.

<sup>48</sup> Ibid. 957.

<sup>49</sup> Add. Charters. 48157, 48160, 48163.

<sup>50</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, 405. Richard and John Gurmund were taxpayers here in 1332: *Lay Subs. Roll* (Dugd. Soc.), 28.

<sup>51</sup> Dugd. 328.

<sup>52</sup> *Feud. Aids*, v, 194.

<sup>53</sup> Feet of F. Warw. East. 37 Hen. VIII.

<sup>54</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* Hen. VII, ii, 245.

<sup>55</sup> Cott. MS. Vitell. A. i, fol. 129 v.

<sup>56</sup> Add. Chart. 48149.

<sup>57</sup> Ibid. 48146-7.

<sup>58</sup> *Bk. of Fees*, 957.

<sup>59</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, 405.

<sup>60</sup> Add. MS. 28024, fol. 192v.

<sup>61</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. 2 Hen. IV, no. 58.

<sup>62</sup> *Cat. Anct. Deeds*, iv, A. 8848.

<sup>63</sup> Ibid. A. 6420.

<sup>64</sup> Ibid. A. 6433; *Cal. Pat.* 1494-1509, p. 141.

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Catesby all her right in a meadow called 'le Bruscroft' in Hodnell in which William had been enfeoffed by her father Richard Geremund;<sup>65</sup> in 1387 Sir John Peyto gave lands in Hodnell and Ascote, which he had inherited from his father William, to John Catesby;<sup>66</sup> and Robert Catesby was dealing with lands there in 1451.<sup>67</sup> William Catesby was a strong supporter of Richard III and, being taken prisoner at Bosworth Field, was beheaded and attainted.<sup>68</sup> His lands in Ascote, some 200 acres of arable and 100 acres of pasture, and the 317 acres in Hodnell and Ascote attached to Radbourne were granted in 1488 to Sir John Risley in tail male;<sup>69</sup> but in 1495 the forfeited estates were restored to William's son, George Catesby.<sup>70</sup> These lands seem to have been acquired by Thomas Wilkes, as in 1555 he sold to William and Richard Wills 83½ acres of pasture in Astefelde in Hodnell, late of Richard (son of George) Catesby.<sup>71</sup> This is probably the origin of the district known as *WILLS PASTURE*.

Having traced the descent of the various manorial entities into the hands of the Wilkes family, we may now return to the three sisters and coheirresses of Robert Wilkes. Anne's marriage to Anthony Dryden, if it ever took place, must have been short-lived; she married Sir William Kingsmill<sup>72</sup> and her son Sir Henry and grandson Sir William succeeded to her share, which became the manor of *ASCOTE*. This was in the hands of William Kingsmill in 1722, but by 1772 had been acquired by William Palmer, whose brother Charles succeeded him in that year and held the manor until



PALMER. *Argent on two bars sable three trefoils argent and in chief a running greyhound sable.*



SNEYD. *Argent a scythe the blade in chief and the sned or handle in bend sinister sable on the fesse point a fleur de lis sable.*

1804.<sup>73</sup> His son William in 1825 took the additional name of Morewood,<sup>74</sup> and his son Charles Rowland Palmer Morewood was lord of the manor in 1865.<sup>75</sup>

The second daughter, Frances, married Sir Erasmus Dryden, son of John Dryden and Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Cope, whose mother was daughter of Sir

John Spencer of Hodnell.<sup>76</sup> Lady Frances died in 1630, having settled her third of the manors on her son John;<sup>77</sup> this third included the manor-house of *OLD HODNELL*.<sup>78</sup> Sir John's son Sir Robert Dryden died without issue in 1708,<sup>79</sup> the heirs to his estate being his sisters, of whom Frances married Ralph Sneyd, from whom the Sneyds of Keele descended; the manor, however, was acquired by a member of the family of Sneyd of Ashcombe, descended from Ralph's younger brother William, as in 1752 William Hodges Sneyd was dealing with the manor,<sup>80</sup> of which he was described as lord in 1753.<sup>81</sup> He died in 1757 and his brother John in 1777. The latter's grandson the Rev. John Sneyd was succeeded in 1873 by his son Dryden Henry Sneyd.<sup>81a</sup>

The wardship and marriage of the third daughter, Margaret, was granted by Queen Elizabeth in 1578 to Robert, Earl of Leicester, who sold it to John Dryden, who assigned it in 1579 to Sir William Catesby.<sup>82</sup> He procured her marriage to his relative Francis Dimock,<sup>83</sup> after whose death she married Thomas Gibbs. On her death in 1639 her share, which included the capital message of *WATERGALL*, passed to her son, Edward Gibbs.<sup>84</sup> His son Thomas had a daughter Frances who married, as his second wife, Sir John Rayney, bart., of Wrotham;<sup>85</sup> she died in 1690 and her son Edward in 1703. On the death of his son without issue the property was sold, about 1720, to John Mead, whose brother Richard was in possession in 1730;<sup>86</sup> it was subsequently acquired by Lord Leigh.

The church of Hodnell is mentioned *ADVOVSON* toned as appropriated to the Priory of Nuneaton in 1291, when it was valued at £3 6s. 8d.<sup>87</sup> In 1535 the rectory was farmed for 26s. 8d.<sup>88</sup> and a pension of 16s. 8d. was paid to Kenilworth Abbey for the parish church.<sup>89</sup> This presumably represented the yearly render of 1 mark and a stone of wax to the canons of Kenilworth with which the church was charged in about 1160.<sup>90</sup> The church was still standing in 1531, when Thomas Spencer left orders for his burial there, near his father's tomb.<sup>91</sup> The rectory and advowson of St. Helen's, Hodnell, remained attached to the main manor,<sup>92</sup> and in 1639 Margaret Gibbs was said to have held one-third of the advowson of the church of St. Helen in Ascote;<sup>93</sup> but already in 1633 Bishop Wright had reported to Archbishop Laud that the churches of Hodnell, Ascote, and Watergall (which seem in fact to be three names for the same building) were decayed, and requiring whether they should be rebuilt or united to other parishes.<sup>94</sup> Neither solution was applied, even the ruins of the church perished,<sup>95</sup> and the three places became extra-parochial.

<sup>65</sup> *Cat. Ant. Deeds*, iv, A. 7577.

<sup>66</sup> *Ibid.* A. 4565. Cf. A. 8054.

<sup>67</sup> *Ibid.* A. 6380.

<sup>68</sup> Dugd. 789.

<sup>69</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1485-94, p. 209.

<sup>70</sup> Dugd. 789.

<sup>71</sup> *Cat. Ant. Deeds*, vi, C. 7712; Feet of F. Warw. East. 1 and 2 Ph. and M.

<sup>72</sup> Dugd. 329.

<sup>73</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations.

<sup>74</sup> Burke, *Landed Gentry* (1855).

<sup>75</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations.

<sup>76</sup> *Vitin.* of Northants, 1681 (Harl. Soc.), 66; Metcalfe, *Vitin. of Northants*, 15, 175.

<sup>77</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccxcviii,

135.

<sup>78</sup> Dugd. 329.

<sup>79</sup> G. E. C., *Complete Baronetage*, i, 129.

<sup>80</sup> Recov. R. Trin. 25-6 Geo. II, ro. 139.

<sup>81</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations.

<sup>81a</sup> Burke, *Landed Gentry*.

<sup>82</sup> *Cat. Ant. Deeds*, v, A. 13506.

<sup>83</sup> *Cal. S. P. Dom.* 1580-1625, p. 165.

<sup>84</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccxciii, 44.

<sup>85</sup> G. E. C., *Complete Baronetage*, ii, 154, where Frances is wrongly called daughter of Margaret Wilkes.

<sup>86</sup> Dugd. 329.

<sup>87</sup> Tax. Eccl. (Rec. Com.), 242.

<sup>88</sup> Val. Eccl. (Rec. Com.), iii, 63.

<sup>89</sup> *Ibid.* 64.

<sup>90</sup> Add. Chart. 48138; Harl. MS. 3650, fols. 34, 38.

<sup>91</sup> Dugd. 329.

<sup>92</sup> *Cat. Ant. Deeds*, vi, C. 7738; Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), clxxix, 102; cccxcviii, 135.

<sup>93</sup> *Ibid.* cccxciii, 44. A conveyance of the advowson of the vicarage of Hodnell was made as late as 1671; Recov. R. Trin. 23 Chas. II, ro. 49.

<sup>94</sup> *Cal. S. P. Dom.* 1633-4, p. 290.

<sup>95</sup> In 1638 the church was said to be altogether demolished, though Nathaniel Halked, clerk, had a presentation to the rectory or vicarage: *ibid.* 1638-9, p. 86.

## HUNNINGHAM

Acreage: 1,261.

Population: 1911, 177; 1921, 198; 1931, 227.

Hunningham is a small parish and village in the Leam valley,  $\frac{3}{4}$  miles north-east of Leamington Spa. The river Leam forms the boundary on the north and west, the village being near the river. Hunningham Bridge, which connects the parish with Weston-under-Wetherley, was out of repair in the early 17th century, the inhabitants of the two parishes being presented at Quarter Sessions in 1636 and 1638. It was found, however, 'by ancient indenture' to be chargeable to Knightlow Hundred, and was eventually repaired in 1651 for £20 at the cost of the hundred.<sup>1</sup> This suggests that the by-road carried by the bridge, running roughly parallel with the 'Welsh Road' from Napton-on-the-Hill and Long Itchington towards Stoneleigh, was formerly of some importance. The Fosse Way runs diagonally across the centre of the parish and is here a metalled road, though not one of the portions which are still a first-class main road. The Rugby and Leamington branch of the L.M.S.R. runs across the south-east of the parish, but there is no station nearer than Marton, 3 miles distant. The south-east boundary is formed by the river Itchen, a tributary of the Leam; near the two rivers the land is liable to floods and about 200 ft. above sea level, rising to 334 ft. on the southern edge where Ridgeway Lane crosses the railway. A fishery at Hunningham is mentioned in 1348.<sup>2</sup>

Among the vicars of Hunningham was George Leigh Cooke (? 1780–1853), Sedleian Professor of Natural Philosophy at Oxford, who held the living (in plurality) from 1824.<sup>3</sup>

HUNNINGHAM in 1086 formed part *MANORS* of the lands of William fitz Corbucion, whose tenants were Osmund (2 hides formerly held freely by Ernewi) and Chetel (1½ hides and ½ virgate formerly held by Saulf).<sup>4</sup> This William held several Warwickshire manors, the chief being at Studley, and was probably sheriff of the county, a charter of William the Conqueror confirming grants to Worcester cathedral priory being addressed to him.<sup>5</sup> The tenancy in chief was evidently granted to the Earl of Warwick, as William's descendant Peter de Studley<sup>6</sup> held 10 knights' fees of the Earl of Warwick in 1166 *de vetero feffamento*,<sup>7</sup> and in 1235 the Warwick holding in Hunningham was reckoned at a quarter of a knight's fee, the tenant not being named.<sup>8</sup> This quarter-fee was in 1242 held by Robert de Devill of William de Cantilupe, who held of the heir of Geoffrey Corbucion, and he of the Earl of Warwick,<sup>9</sup> and is again recorded as belonging to the earl in 1316.<sup>10</sup> In 1401 the earl's quarter-fee was held by Edward Metteley.<sup>11</sup> Four years later Sir Walter Cokesey held

the manor of Hunningham of the Earl of Warwick,<sup>12</sup> and his grandson Sir Hugh similarly in 1445.<sup>13</sup> In 1460 the manor was stated to be held of the king through the forfeiture of Richard, Earl of Warwick (the Kingmaker),<sup>14</sup> and in the following year it was among the fees in Warwickshire held by John, Duke of Norfolk.<sup>15</sup> The manor was, however, restored to the earldom of Warwick after the creation of the new (Clarence) earldom in 1472, and was so held in 1473<sup>16</sup> and 1480.<sup>17</sup> After the final extinction of the Clarence earldom the overlordship was retained by the Crown, and the manor was stated to be held as of Warwick Castle or of the earldom of Warwick in 1520<sup>18</sup> and as late as 1624.<sup>19</sup>

William fitz Corbucion was apparently succeeded by Robert,<sup>20</sup> but the next member of the family to figure at Hunningham is Geoffrey Corbucion who granted the chapel to his clerk Richard between 1161 and 1170.<sup>21</sup> The Peter (Corbucion) 'of Studley' who held the fees in 1166 may have been his brother, as he is said to have been 'son of William'<sup>22</sup> and was probably grandson of the Domesday tenant. He had a son Peter, who was living in 1200<sup>23</sup> and seems to have been succeeded here by Richard Corbucion, who in 1221 granted to his son Geoffrey 'the whole estate of Hunningham' with the chief message.<sup>24</sup> Richard died in or shortly before 1227, when his widow Beatrice had dower in Hunningham, the reversion of which Geoffrey granted to his brother Richard.<sup>25</sup> Geoffrey was dead by 1242, when his heir is referred to;<sup>26</sup> in 1311 the quarter-fee was held by William Corbucion,<sup>27</sup> who was himself dead by 1316,<sup>28</sup> when his heirs held it. As late as 1347 John son of John son of William Corbucion was holding land in the parish,<sup>29</sup> but no more is heard of the family's overlordship.

Peter son of Peter (Corbucion) Studley enfeoffed William de Cantilupe in much of his estate,<sup>30</sup> and it was no doubt through his accession to the Cantilupe estates<sup>31</sup> that John de Hastings, Lord Bergavenny, claimed court leet in Hunningham in 1284.<sup>32</sup> His son John had view of frank-pledge there in 1325.<sup>33</sup>

In 1295 Urian de St. Pierre died in possession of a capital message and land in Hunningham, held of Sir John de Hastings as one-third knight's fee.<sup>34</sup> This estate passed to his grandson Urian, at whose death in 1311 it was said to be held of William 'Corpison' as a quarter-fee.<sup>35</sup> It was conveyed by his son John to William son of Sir William Trussell in 1334,<sup>36</sup> and William Trussell is stated to have held a quarter-fee in Hunningham of the heirs of Hastings in 1346.<sup>37</sup> This was presumably a settlement in connexion with the marriage of John St. Pierre to William Trussell's daughter Isabel.<sup>38</sup> John's granddaughter and heir

<sup>1</sup> *Warw. Co. Records*, i, 240, 245; ii, 20, 261; iii, 27, 57, 68.

<sup>2</sup> De Banco R. 353, m. 325.

<sup>3</sup> *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

<sup>4</sup> *F.C.H. Warw.*, i, 333.

<sup>5</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1281–92, p. 26.

<sup>6</sup> Dugd. 741, quoting Reg. Kenilworth

(Hartl. MS. 3650) calls him *filius Willelmi*.

<sup>7</sup> *Red Bk. of Exch.* (Rolls Ser.), 325.

<sup>8</sup> *Bk. of Fees*, 507.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.* 959.

<sup>10</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, 615 (p. 405). Held

by the heirs of William Corbyoun.

<sup>11</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 2 Hen. IV, 58, m. 76.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.* 6 Hen. IV, 32.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.* 24 Hen. VI, 36.

<sup>14</sup> *Cal. Fine R.* xix, 279.

<sup>15</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* i Edw. IV, 46.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.* 13 Edw. IV, 32.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.* 20 Edw. IV, 72.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.* (Ser. 2), xxxv, 70.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.* ccccxv, 6; cccc, 82; ccccliii, 88.

<sup>20</sup> Dugd. 741.

<sup>21</sup> *Add. Chart.* 48165.

<sup>22</sup> Dugd. 741.

<sup>23</sup> *Curia Regis R.* i, 121; *Feet of F.*

(Dugd. Soc. xi), 85.

<sup>24</sup> *Roll of Justices in Eyre in . . . Warw.*

(Selden Soc.), 669.

<sup>25</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xi), 379, 407.

<sup>26</sup> *Bk. of Fees*, 507.

<sup>27</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, 251.

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.* p. 405.

<sup>29</sup> De Banco R. 351, m. 75.

<sup>30</sup> *F.C.H. Warw.* iii, 181.

<sup>31</sup> *Ibid.* 36.

<sup>32</sup> *Plac. de Quo War.* (Rec. Com.), 777.

<sup>33</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* vi, 612.

<sup>34</sup> *Ibid.* iii, 280.

<sup>35</sup> *Ibid.* v, 251.

<sup>36</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xv), 1765.

<sup>37</sup> Dugd. 358, quoting MSS. of Sir

Simon Clarke.

<sup>38</sup> Ormerod, *Cheshire*, ii (2), 599.

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

Isabel in 1353 was married to Walter son of Hugh de Cokesey (then aged 10),<sup>39</sup> and in 1352 the manor of Hunningham, extended at 71s. 10d. yearly, was assigned in dower to Hugh's widow Denise during the minority of Walter.<sup>40</sup> This Sir Walter's son Sir Hugh de Cokesey died without issue in 1445,<sup>41</sup> and on the death of his widow Alice in 1460<sup>42</sup> the manor passed to Sir Hugh's sister Joyce Beauchamp, widow,<sup>43</sup> and on her death in 1473 to Sir John Greville, her son by a previous husband; he was then 44 years of age<sup>44</sup> and died in 1480. His son Sir Thomas assumed the name of Cokesey, and as he left no issue the manor reverted to the descendants of Cicely, daughter of Walter son of Isabel St. Pierre, namely Robert Russell and 'Robert' (? Roger) Winter,<sup>45</sup> to whom licence of entry upon Sir Thomas's lands was granted in 1500.<sup>46</sup> Roger's grandson George Winter was said to hold the manor at his death in 1594,<sup>47</sup> but there is no later trace of any Winter interest, and land amounting to 7 virgates, with 4 messuages, had been sold by Roger Winter to John Underhill,<sup>48</sup> whose son Thomas married Roger's sister<sup>49</sup> and was said to have inclosed 40 acres of arable and reduced 2 messuages to cottages in 1510, ejecting 8 persons and putting one plough-team out of action.<sup>50</sup> John Underhill had bought the other manor of Hunningham (see below) and on the strength of it his grandson Edward appears to have claimed manorial rights over the St. Pierre estates. These claims were disputed c. 1535 first by William Seyntpeir of Wellington and then, on his death, by his son John, who maintained that after the death of Sir Thomas Cokesey the estate should have come to them, as descended from Thomas, younger son of Sir John St. Pierre and Isabel (Trussell).<sup>51</sup> They do not seem to have been successful, and the whole of the Underhill property was presumably united as one manor.

As already noted, Robert de Deyvill was tenant under William de Cantilupe in 1242;<sup>52</sup> and in 1252 his son Walter had a grant of free warren in his demesnes, including Hunningham.<sup>53</sup> His successor Roger had to sell most of his lands,<sup>54</sup> and there is reason to think that his estate here was acquired by Silvester de Honingham,<sup>55</sup> who had land here in 1236<sup>56</sup> and in 1288 made over 4 messuages and 1½ virgates to Roger de Honingham.<sup>57</sup> According to Dugdale, this Roger was son of Silvester and took the name de Cotes.<sup>58</sup> To the transaction of 1288 William Corbison and Robert de Noers<sup>59</sup> put in their claims, and in 1304 Robert de Noers and Beatrice his wife conveyed to William son of Roger (de Cotes) 3 virgates and 20s.

rents in Hunningham,<sup>60</sup> which Beatrice confirmed in 1316 after Robert's death.<sup>61</sup> In 1327 William de Cotes and his son John obtained the reversion of land held in Hunningham by Beatrice,<sup>62</sup> and when William died in 1330 he held a messuage and 48 acres from Beatrice de Noers and another messuage and 16 acres from Lora de Beyvill.<sup>63</sup> John de Cotes, whose name heads the list of tax-payers in this vill in 1332,<sup>64</sup> left a son William, whose widow Margaret married Edward Metteley,<sup>65</sup> who was tenant of the Earl of Warwick's quarter-fee in 1401.<sup>66</sup> In 1431 the quarter-fee is said to have been held jointly by Margaret Metley, John de Cotes, Sir Hugh de Cokesey, and William Warmyngham,<sup>67</sup> whose claim is obscure. In 1500 John Underhill bought from Sir Thomas Pulteney, who may have been a mortgagee or trustee, the manor of Hunningham, 'which late belonged to Thomas Cotes the elder', and settled it on his wife Agnes.<sup>68</sup> He died in 1518 and his son Thomas two years later, the manor passing to the latter's infant son Edward, who in 1545 sold it to Richard Newport, reserving a rent of £26 13s. 4d.<sup>69</sup> Richard died in 1565 and his son John the following year, leaving a son William then aged 6.<sup>70</sup> This (Sir) William inherited the property of his mother's brother Sir Christopher Hatton and took the name of Hatton;<sup>71</sup> he died in 1596, and in 1611 his daughter and heir Frances and her husband Sir Robert Rich (afterwards Earl of Warwick) sold the manor to Thomas Gibbes.<sup>72</sup> John Woodward in 1614 conveyed the manor to Timothy Wagstaff,<sup>73</sup> who with Edward Murcott enfeoffed Hannibal Horsey<sup>74</sup> thereof on 29 November of the same year<sup>75</sup> in tail, with contingent remainder to James Enyon, Hannibal's father-in-law. Horsey was succeeded by his son James in 1622, who left an infant daughter Dorothy at his death in 1630.<sup>76</sup> She later married George Fane, a Colonel of Horse and younger son of the 1st Earl of Westmorland,<sup>77</sup> and they dealt with the manor in 1653.<sup>78</sup> Their son Sir Henry Fane, with Elizabeth (Southcott) his wife, conveyed it in 1690 to Robert Waring and John Cropper,<sup>79</sup> and in 1695 sold the manor to Thomas, 2nd Baron Leigh,<sup>80</sup> whose son Edward was lord in 1730.<sup>81</sup> It remained with the family after the extinction of the barony in 1786, Thomas Leigh, James Henry Leigh,<sup>82</sup> and James Leigh Perrot dealing with the manor in 1806<sup>83</sup> and 1812.<sup>84</sup> Chandos Leigh, 1st baron of the second creation, was lord in 1850.<sup>85</sup> His son William Henry was lord of the manor in 1900,<sup>86</sup> and any surviving manorial rights belong to the present Lord Leigh.

In 1548 Edward Underhill and Joan his wife

<sup>39</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* x, 329.

<sup>40</sup> *Cal. Close*, 1354-60, p. 286.

<sup>41</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 24 Hen. VI, no. 36.

<sup>42</sup> *Ibid.* 38-39 Hen. VI, no. 49.

<sup>43</sup> *Cal. Fine R.* xix, 279.

<sup>44</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 13 Edw. IV, no. 32.

<sup>45</sup> According to the pedigree of Winter this should be Roger: *Plat. of Worcs.* 1569 (Harl. Soc.), 118. This is borne out by the inquiry after the death of George Winter.

<sup>46</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1494-1509, p. 192.

<sup>47</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cxviii, 75.

<sup>48</sup> J. H. Morrison, *The Underhills of Warwick*, 43 n.

<sup>49</sup> *Ibid.* 43.

<sup>50</sup> Leadam, *Domesday of Inclosures*, 447.

<sup>51</sup> Early Chan. Proc. 886, no. 15; 892,

no. 21; 893, 16. <sup>52</sup> *Bk. of Fees*, 959.

<sup>53</sup> *Cal. Chart. R.* i, 405.

<sup>54</sup> *V.C.H. Warwick*, v, 105.

<sup>55</sup> Nichols, *Leics.* iv, 212.

<sup>56</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xi), 508.

<sup>57</sup> *Ibid.* (xv), 1059.

<sup>58</sup> Dugd. 359; citing a deed in Simon Archer's hands.

<sup>59</sup> Alexander de Noers 'of Hunningham' occurs in 1262: *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xi), 813.

<sup>60</sup> *Ibid.* (xv), 1437.

<sup>61</sup> *Ibid.* 1672. <sup>62</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* vii, 294.

<sup>63</sup> *Lay Subi. R.* (Dugd. Soc.), 38.

<sup>64</sup> Dugd. 359.

<sup>65</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 2 Hen. IV, no. 58.

<sup>66</sup> Dugd. 359.

<sup>67</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xviii), 2772;

*Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), xxxv, 70.

<sup>68</sup> *Feet of F.* Warwick East. 36 Hen. VIII.

<sup>69</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2) cxliii, 3.

<sup>70</sup> Baker, *Northants*, 197.

<sup>71</sup> *Feet of Warw. Trin.* 9 Jas. I.

<sup>72</sup> *Ibid.* Mich. 12 Jas. I.

<sup>73</sup> Horsey had apparently bought the lands of the manor from Thomas Cox: *Chan. Proc.* (Ser. 1), Jas. I, H. 27/46.

<sup>74</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cccc, 82.

<sup>75</sup> *Ibid.* cccviii, 129.

<sup>76</sup> *V.C.H. Northants. Families*, 112.

<sup>77</sup> *Recov. R. Trin.* 1653, ro. 144.

<sup>78</sup> *Feet of F. Warw. Trin.* 2 Wm. & Mary.

<sup>79</sup> Dugd. 360.

<sup>80</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>81</sup> For his connexion with the then extinct Leigh barony see G. E. C., *Compl. Peerage*, 2nd ed. vii, 570. His son Chandos was 1st baron of the second creation.

<sup>82</sup> *Feet of F. Warw. Mich.* 47 Geo. III.

<sup>83</sup> *Ibid.* Mich. 53 Geo. III, ro. 51.

<sup>84</sup> White, *Directory Warwick*, 686.

<sup>85</sup> Kelly, *Directory Warwick*.



granted the rent of £26 13s. 4d. annually arising out of the manor of Hunningham to Thomas Spencer.<sup>87</sup> This was dealt with by the Spencers in 1577<sup>88</sup> and 1599,<sup>89</sup> and conveyed by Sir Thomas Spencer and Jane his wife to Sturch Walford in 1666.<sup>90</sup> The latter, who lived at Wolverton and was concerned in the non-repair of a highway there about this time,<sup>91</sup> with his wife Anne and John Walford conveyed the rents to George Abell in 1696,<sup>92</sup> and Abel and Susanna Walford to Joseph Thompson in 1769.<sup>93</sup>

A small part of Hunningham became in some way attached to the Duchy of Lancaster and descended with Brinklow (q.v.) as a member of that manor.<sup>94</sup> In the middle of the 17th century the vill of Hunningham paid a yearly fine of 6d. to the Duchy.<sup>95</sup>

In 1226 Geoffrey Corbucian granted a messuage and 8 acres of meadow to the Hospital of St. John at Warwick.<sup>96</sup>

The Church of *ST. MARGARET* is *CHURCH* situated on the east bank of the river Itchen, north of the village. It is a small church consisting of chancel, nave, north aisle, vestry, south porch, and a timber bell-cote on the west gable. It dates from the latter part of the 13th century, when it consisted of a nave and chancel, and appears to have been repaired at the end of the 14th century, and re-roofed at the end of the 16th century; in modern times a north aisle, vestry, and south porch were added and the whole church drastically restored. All the roofs are covered with tiles.

The chancel, except parts of the north and south walls adjoining the nave, has been entirely rebuilt with a light-coloured sandstone ashlar, the old portions being red sandstone coursed rubble. The east end has angle buttresses and is lighted by a plain tracery window of two pointed lights with a pointed arch. On the south side at the west end is a rectangular low-side window of two splayed orders, and a modern central buttress dividing the old walling from the modern. On the north side a modern vestry has been built, which incloses a blocked low-side window corresponding with the one on the south. The south wall of the nave has three windows of two trefoil lights with tracery under square heads, all modern but perhaps copies of the previously existing 14th-century windows. Between the last two is a four-centred doorway, with a single splay, covered by a modern timber porch. The west gable of the nave is the most interesting and unaltered part of the building and is built of red sandstone rubble with ashlar dressings. In the centre there is a buttress-like projection which reaches to the apex of the gable, where it is weathered off. It contains a long chamfered lancet window with a simple label moulding. On the top of the gable is a small square weather-boarded bell-cote for two bells, with a pyramid roof terminating in a weather vane representing a cock. Between this and the angle buttress at the south-west angle there is a massive buttress in four weathered stages built of light-coloured sandstone with a moulded plinth, probably part of the 14th-century repairs. In the west gable of the modern north aisle are two lancet windows of one

splay with a hood-moulding continued over both, and on the north side, which has three shallow buttresses, are three windows with trefoil heads, one a single light, one of two, and the other of three lights. Built into this wall is a round-headed 13th-century doorway, now blocked with masonry, taken from the north wall of the nave when it was destroyed. At the eastern end is the modern vestry, with a single-light window on the north and a doorway in the east with a chamfered pointed arch. The aisle and vestry are built of hammer-dressed ashlar.

The chancel (18 ft. 8 in. by 12 ft.) has a modern tiled floor, plastered walls, two steps up from the nave and one to the modern altar. The roof, which is of the queen-post type, is modern, but constructed with old timbers, probably members of the earlier roof, re-used. In the south wall the low-side window has a splayed recess with a flat head; the corresponding one on the north is plastered over and is only visible inside the vestry. On this wall there is a marble monument to James Enyon, died 1623, and Constance his wife, died 1610; also on an oak board is a small brass representing seven figures, with an inscription, 'This brass, circa 1485, was found in the churchyard in 1906 and fixed in the church in 1946'. The figures appear to be gazing upwards and may have formed part of an Assumption group.

The nave (33 ft. 6 in. by 16 ft. 10 in.) has a modern tiled floor and plastered walls. On the south side the window recesses are square with flat heads, and that in the west has deeply splayed jambs. The chancel arch has been destroyed and its jambs cut away and a plain modern segmental arch inserted, which carries the modern gable above and stops abruptly on the walls at both ends. The late-16th-century roof is a form of queen-post truss, with carved central bosses on the undersides of the stop-chamfered tie-beams, and plastered between the rafters. The modern north arcade is in three bays with pointed arches of two splayed orders which continue uninterrupted down to moulded stops forming square bases.

Opposite the south door is a late-14th-century font of white sandstone, which has a circular basin with eight round shafts projecting from its face, dividing it into as many panels, which are decorated with foliated designs of different patterns, the rim moulding being carried round the shafts to form capitals. The underside of the basin is moulded, the stem circular on a base of three graduated splays. It stands on an octagonal step with a square one on the west side. The pulpit placed on the south side of the chancel arch is modern; also the seating.

The north aisle (33 ft. 6 in. by 16 ft. 3 in.) has a modern tiled floor, ashlar walls, and an open roof of king-post type with curved brackets and plastered between the rafters. The window recesses are splayed, with pointed arches. Standing against the west wall there is the deep basin of a plain font with part of its rim broken away.

Of the two bells,<sup>97</sup> one is mediaeval, of c. 1350, the other was probably cast by Thomas Bullison of London, c. 1510.

The registers begin in 1718.

<sup>87</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Trin. 2 Edw. VI.

<sup>88</sup> Ibid. Hil. 19 Eliz.

<sup>89</sup> Ibid. Div. Cos. Trin. 41 Eliz.

<sup>90</sup> Ibid. Warw. Mich. 18 Chas. II.

<sup>91</sup> Warw. Co. Rec. v, lxvii, lxviii, 19,

43, 57.

<sup>92</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Trin. 7 Wm. III.

<sup>93</sup> Ibid. Trin. 9 Geo. III.

<sup>94</sup> Court Rolls in P.R.O. and at the Birthplace, S.-on-A.

<sup>95</sup> Parly. Surveys (P.R.O.), Warws. 23.

<sup>96</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xi), 367.

<sup>97</sup> Tilley and Walters, *Church Bells of Warws.* 173.



## A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

As already mentioned, Geoffrey Cor-  
*ADVOWSON* bicon between 1161 and 1170 granted  
his chapel of Hunningham to one  
Richard, his clerk.<sup>98</sup> This was presumably little more  
than a private manorial chapel, as it was apparently a  
later Sir Geoffrey Corbican, 'in King John's time', who  
gave to Edmund, rector of Wappenbury (within which  
parish the vill of Hunningham lay), a messuage and  
land and all the tithes of his fee here for the maintenance  
of a priest to celebrate in the chapel three days in the  
week and on special festivals; the reason being the  
dangerous nature of the approach to Wappenbury  
church when the Leam was in flood. Sir Geoffrey at  
the same time made over his rights in the chapel to  
Sir Richard de Wappenbury, patron of the mother  
church, and his heirs.<sup>99</sup> It remained attached to  
Wappenbury and with that church was appropriated to  
the Priory of Monks Kirby early in the 13th century.<sup>1</sup>  
That alien priory was made over to the Carthusians of  
Axholme in 1396,<sup>2</sup> and they had licence to convey the  
church of Wappenbury to the Northamptonshire abbey  
of Sulby in 1399.<sup>3</sup> Accordingly, in 1535 Hunningham  
was returned as appropriated to Sulby. It is then styled a  
parish church, of which the glebe and emoluments  
were worth £5, in addition to £2 which the abbey  
paid to the stipendiary priest who served the church.<sup>4</sup>  
The 'rectory or tithes' of Hunningham, valued at  
£6 10s. 6d., were granted in 1560 to Sir George  
Howard,<sup>5</sup> but the benefice presumably remained a  
donative in the gift of the lord of the manor, as no  
presentation is known until 1734, when Edward, Lord  
Leigh, presented to the curacy.<sup>6</sup> It descended with the  
manor, as a perpetual curacy, until the middle of the  
19th century, since when the Lord Chancellor has been  
patron of the benefice, which is now a vicarage.<sup>7</sup>

George Murcott by will dated  
*CHARITIES* 27 January 1885 bequeathed £70 to  
the minister and churchwardens of  
Hunningham, the interest to be applied to the use of  
the poor and distressed widows of the parish.

Mary Garlick. In an overseers' book it is recorded  
under date 1803 that Mary Garlick by will gave £10,

the interest to be applied similarly to the use of poor  
widows.

Hannah Garlick by will dated 29 July 1865 gave  
to the officiating clergyman and churchwardens of  
Hunningham £19 19s., the interest to be applied to the  
use of poor widows. The annual income of the above-  
mentioned charities amounts to £2 15s. approximately.

Thomas Bayes by will dated 1729 left a rent-charge  
of 20s. per annum issuing out of a meadow ground  
called Gilberts Close, Easinghall, Monks Kirby, unto  
the churchwardens and overseers of the poor of the  
parish of Hunningham to distribute forty sixpenny  
loaves of bread among the poor inhabitants. The rent-  
charge was redeemed in 1915 in consideration of the  
sum of £40 Consols, producing an annual income of 20s.

Richard Cox. It is recorded upon a tablet in the  
parish church that Richard Cox by his will dated 3  
March 1700 gave to the poor of the parish the sum  
of 10s. to be annually paid them on 24 February, for  
ever, out of his cottage there.

Church Land. It is stated in the printed Parliamen-  
tary Reports of the Commissioners for Inquiring  
Concerning Charities dated 1827 that there is a parcel  
of arable land in the parish containing 3½ acres the  
rent of which has from time immemorial been received  
by the churchwardens and applied towards the repair  
of the church, but it is not known how the property  
was acquired. It is also stated that the churchwardens  
receive the following rents which are applied towards  
the repair of the church:

2s. 6d. a year in respect of a 'Hooke' or small slip of  
land in a meadow called Caudle Meadow, in this  
parish.

5s. a year in respect of a 'Hooke' in Crow Meadow,  
in this parish.

The origin of these payments is unknown.

The annual income of the Charity amounts to £9.

Philip Edward Shephard by will dated 13 July  
1933 bequeathed £200 Consols to the Parochial  
Church Council of Hunningham, to apply the dividends  
for the upkeep of the new churchyard.

## HYDES PASTURES

This small tract of land, containing 426 acres, on  
the Warwickshire side of the Watling Street is part  
of the Leicestershire parish of Hinckley and is now  
included in that county. There was originally a chapel  
and a small settlement here,<sup>1</sup> but Dugdale writes of it  
as depopulated, and Dr. Thomas (c. 1730) records that  
there was only one house, 'near which are yet to be  
seen the Vestigia of this depopulated village'.<sup>2</sup> In 1271  
a half-fee in Hyde, Nuneaton, and Sapcote was held  
of the honor of Winchester by Thomas le Mareschal.<sup>3</sup>  
On the partition of that honor after the death of Roger  
de Quincy, Earl of Winchester, this half-fee passed to  
his eldest daughter Margaret, wife of Sir William  
Ferrers of Groby, of whose grandson Henry it was held  
in 1344 by William le Mareschal.<sup>4</sup> The overlordship

of the half-fee, henceforth said to be in Hyde and  
Nuneaton (only), descended with the Lords Ferrers  
of Groby,<sup>5</sup> coming to the Marquess of Dorset by 1513<sup>6</sup>  
and being held of the king as of the honor of Winchester  
in 1609.<sup>7</sup>

The Mareschal interest appears to go back to the  
12th century, as in 1202 William Mareschal and Ralph  
Mallore and Liecia his wife conveyed 2 virgates in  
Hyde to Richard son of Robert.<sup>8</sup> Thomas, as already  
mentioned, held the half-fee in 1271, as did William  
le Mareschal in 1344,<sup>9</sup> and the heirs of Thomas in  
1371.<sup>10</sup> The heirs, or at least successors, of the  
Mareschals were presumably the Bassets of Sapcote,  
as the tenants of the half-fee in 1388 were said to be  
Richard Grey of Codnor and Sir Laurence Dutton,<sup>11</sup>

<sup>98</sup> See above, n. 21.

<sup>99</sup> Dugd. 358, citing a deed then in the  
hands of Joseph Venour.

<sup>1</sup> Dugd. 360.

<sup>2</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* ii, 131.

<sup>3</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1396-9, p. 581.

<sup>4</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 63; iv,  
300.

<sup>5</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1558-60, p. 427.

<sup>6</sup> Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.).

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.; *Clergy Lists*.

<sup>8</sup> Dugd. 52.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid. 53.

<sup>10</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* i, 776.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid. viii, 469.

<sup>12</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 45 Edw. III, no. 22;

<sup>13</sup> Ric. II, no. 26; 23 Hen. VI, no. 33;

<sup>14</sup> 36 Hen. VI, no. 40.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid. (Ser. 2), xxviii, 139.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid. cccxi, 117.

<sup>8</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xi), 112.

<sup>9</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* viii, 469.

<sup>10</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 45 Edw. III, no. 22.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid. i Ric. II, no. 26, Sir Laurence  
continues to be returned as co-tenant as  
late as 1458 (ibid. 36 Hen. VI, no. 40),  
though he seems to have died about 1390.

who had married respectively Elizabeth and Alice, the daughters and coheirs of the last Lord Basset of Sapcote.<sup>12</sup> Alice had previously been married to Sir Robert Moton of Peckleton,<sup>13</sup> and his son Sir William Moton held land in Hyde when he died in 1392.<sup>14</sup>

In 1457 John Mareschal, probably a member of a branch of the family who had held the half-fee, granted to John Brome the reversion after his death of 5 virgates, 80 acres of meadow, and 20 acres of pasture in Hyde.<sup>15</sup> In 1505 John Brome conveyed the manor of Hyde to John Leek, Richard Astell, and Richard Wightman.<sup>16</sup> The shares of Leek and Astell were bought by Henry Smyth, who died in 1514, and two-thirds of the manor descended with Sherford in Burton Hastings (q.v.) to

his son Sir Walter and grandson Richard, and then to the Littletons and Heles. Early in the 18th century this estate seems to have become divided between three coheires.<sup>17</sup> The Wightman share advanced no claims to be manorial and appears simply as tenements in Hyde at the death of Thomas Wightman in 1550.<sup>18</sup> A later Thomas married Dorothy Crofts, one coheir of the Moton and Basset interest,<sup>19</sup> and was apparently farming the land of the two-thirds manor when Nicholas Hele died in 1641.<sup>20</sup>

William Boteler and William Babington had licence in 1413 to alienate to Arbury Priory lands in various places including Hyde.<sup>21</sup> That priory had 13s. 4d. from rents of pasture in Hyde in 1535.<sup>22</sup>

## BISHOP'S ITCHINGTON

Acreage: 3,052.

Population: 1911, 818; 1921, 980; 1931, 915.

Bishop's Itchington is a parish and large village 3 miles south-west of Southam. The river Itchen, from which it derives its name, flows northward through the parish, which accounts for the large amount of meadow, 50 acres, recorded in 1086.<sup>1</sup> The ground slopes from Christmas Hill<sup>2</sup> (425 ft.) on the western boundary to 269 ft., where the Itchen leaves the parish at its north-eastern corner. There are no main roads through the parish, though the Southam-Kineton road, which crosses it from north to south and passes through the village, has or had milestones.<sup>3</sup> Minor roads connect the village with Harbury, Ladbroke, and Knightcote in Burton Dassett. The present village in the north of the parish was formerly known as Upper Itchington, Lower Itchington being about a mile to the south-east, probably near the present Old Town Farm, where there are traces of buildings having once existed.<sup>4</sup> Lower Itchington was at one time the more important, and contained the church (St. Michael's Church in the upper village is on the site of a medieval chapel), but Thomas Fisher, who purchased the manor from the Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield in 1547, 'pulled down the church for the building of a large manor house . . . actually changed the name from Bishop's to Fisher's Itchington, but is only remembered as the ruthless depopulator'.<sup>5</sup> In 1730 this manor-house had been abandoned and converted into two of the six dwellings that then existed in Lower Itchington,<sup>6</sup> and traces of the depopulation remained as late as 1801, when the first census showed a population (370) much below that of most neighbouring parishes, having regard to the large area. Since then the population has risen almost continuously to a figure about two and a half times what it was in 1801, a noteworthy increase for a rural parish, though caused partly by the development of lime and cement works on the northern boundary with Harbury.<sup>7</sup> As in Harbury, the soil is rather heavy but productive.

The former G.W.R. main line to Birmingham crosses the northern part of the parish, the nearest station being at Harbury, a mile and a half distant. In the south-west corner of the parish is the large wood known as Itchington Holt.

There are a Congregational chapel, erected in 1837, and a Methodist chapel, erected in 1859.<sup>8</sup>

A windmill is mentioned in 1279<sup>9</sup> and in 1602.<sup>10</sup> Many 'old coins, bones, musket balls and foundations of stone' were found in 1849,<sup>11</sup> no doubt relics of the destroyed lower village.

A grant of 24 acres made to the church of All Saints by Mabel de Hagley in 1246 shows that they lay in the East and West Fields,<sup>12</sup> which seems to imply a two-field system of cultivation at that date. An Inclosure Act for Bishop's Itchington was passed in 1774.<sup>13</sup>

Sir John Willes (1685-1761), Chief Justice of Common Pleas, was the son of John Willes, vicar from 1681 to 1700.<sup>14</sup> In 1638 a warrant was issued for commitment of Edward Tompkins of Bishop's Itchington for 'giving ill language and reviling speeches against the collectors of ship money'.<sup>15</sup>

East of the church is the Manor House, which now forms six cottages, with two added to the north and south ends in red brick. Although adapted for eight families the external elevation has suffered little alteration. It is a two-story building, T-shaped in plan, dating from about the middle of the 16th century, and is built of limestone ashlar with sandstone dressings, moulded plinth, and tiled roof. The windows throughout have a single splay in a square rebate. The south front has a porch, with a steep-pitched gable, two stories high, and has a wide entrance with a flat head, moulded architrave, plain pilasters and a moulded pediment with a two-light window above, and a blocked two-light in the gable. The entrance doorway has a chamfered four-centred head. There is a moulded string-course at first-floor level carried up over the

<sup>12</sup> *Cal. Fine R.* ix, 165.

<sup>13</sup> *C. E. C., Complete Peerage* (2nd ed.), ii, 8, makes Moton the second husband; but Sir Robert died in 1367: *Cal. Inq. p.m.* xii, 155. Cf. Nichols, *Leics.* iv, 869.

<sup>14</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 16 Ric. II, no. 21. Dugdale alleges (p. 52) that William Moton held one-eighth fee of the honor of Winchester here in 1346; the date is probably wrong.

<sup>15</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xviii), 2635.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.* 2803.

<sup>17</sup> Nichols, *Leics.* iv, 723.

<sup>18</sup> *Exch. Inq. p.m.* 1550, no. 1.

<sup>19</sup> Nichols, *Leics.* iv, 869.

<sup>20</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), ccccxcv, 75.

<sup>21</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1413-16, p. 29.

<sup>22</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 56.

<sup>1</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* i, 305.

<sup>2</sup> This occurs in 1246 as 'Cristemelbul' (= the hill crowned with a cross): *Magnum Reg. Album* (Wm. Salt Soc.), no. 195.

<sup>3</sup> O.S. 6-in. map. Edition of 1891.

<sup>4</sup> *Ex inf.* Mr. M. W. Beresford.

<sup>5</sup> White, *Directory of Warw.* (1850), p. 687.

<sup>6</sup> Dugd. 350.

<sup>7</sup> These works employed 100, sometimes as many as 200 labourers in the

1860's. 'May take away all the best men at certain times' (*Reports from Commissioners, 1868-9*, vol. xxii, Appx. Pt. ii, p. 326).

<sup>8</sup> Kelly, *Directory of Warw.*

<sup>9</sup> Dugd. 349.

<sup>10</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 44-5 Eliz.

<sup>11</sup> White, op. cit. 688.

<sup>12</sup> *Magnum Reg. Album* (Wm. Salt Soc.), no. 195; this contains a number of place-names.

<sup>13</sup> Private Act 14 Geo. III, c. 28.

<sup>14</sup> *Dier. Nat. Biog.*

<sup>15</sup> *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1637-8, pp. 437, 474.

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

windows as a hood-moulding. The upper story is projected slightly on a moulded corbel stopping against the pilasters. East of the porch is a four-light transomed window, with two lower lights removed to insert a modern door, and above a three-light window; to the west there are two-light windows to each floor. In the return wall of the west wing there is a small single-light window at first-floor level. On the north side there are two two-light transomed windows with two two-lights above, one blocked. At the west end there is a door with a slightly cambered chamfered head, with a small single-light window east of it. In the return wall of the west wing there is a similar door and window, and a two-light transomed window to each floor. On the west there is a central doorway with a four-centred moulded arch with a square head, carved spandrels, and moulded stops, and south of it is a four-light transomed window with a three-light above. North of the doorway a two-light transomed window has been converted into a door by removing the two lower lights, and above it is a two-light window. The chimney-stacks have all been rebuilt in red brick and the roof re-tiled. Internally nothing of interest remains.

**ITCHINGTON** was one of the fifteen **MANORS** Warwickshire lordships granted by Earl

Leofric to his newly founded priory of Coventry in 1043,<sup>16</sup> and was in 1086 held by the church of Coventry for 5 hides, worth £12. The fact that in 1066 it had been worth £10 and afterwards £3 suggests that it may, like the Coventry holding in the neighbouring parish of Harbury, have been laid waste by the king's army.<sup>17</sup> At some date early in the 12th century the monks seem to have been dispossessed of some of their estates; they were restored by command of Pope Eugenius III (1145-53), the grant being confirmed by King Stephen, with special mention of Itchington, in a charter recited in 1348.<sup>18</sup> The exact date when this manor became the exclusive property of the Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield is not certain; Dugdale<sup>19</sup> puts it at the beginning of the episcopate of Roger Molend (1257), but it was already called **BISHOP'S ITCHINGTON** in 1247,<sup>20</sup> and the bull issued in 1152 by Eugenius III expressly confirmed Itchington to Bishop Walter Duredent and his successors.<sup>21</sup> In any case Bishop Molend was in 1259 granted free warren in his demesne lands, a weekly market on Wednesdays and an annual fair in connexion with the feast of SS. Peter and Paul, at Itchington.<sup>22</sup> In 1285 he claimed and was allowed view of frankpledge, assize of bread and ale, and infangthief or the right to try and to hang thieves caught within the bounds of his Warwickshire manors.<sup>23</sup> Six years earlier Itchington had been returned at 5 carucates, with a windmill, held in demesne, 8 free and 26 unfree tenants holding<sup>24</sup> in all 424 yardlands, and 16 cottagers with 17 cottages. The value of the bishop's manor in 1291 was returned as £19 18s. 8d.<sup>25</sup> In 1322 a commission of *oyer and terminer* was issued regarding persons who during a

vacancy in the see had broken into the bishop's estates at Itchington and elsewhere, burnt the houses, fished in the stews, and cut down the trees.<sup>26</sup> An extent taken after the death of Bishop Northburgh (1359) shows the manor-house as of no value: the pasture in the garden was worth 2s.; there were a windmill, and 32 acres of arable in the demesne worth only 4d. an acre because in fallow; also 24 acres (cultivated) worth 3s. an acre. A pasture called Smethys was worth 6s. The 30 customary tenants had commuted for 4s. each per year, and in Nether Itchington there were 10 'acremen' each holding a messuage and half a virgate. The rents of the free tenants amounted to £6 5s. 8d. and perquisites of court to 5s. 10d. An aid called 'Stuth' was payable by the customary tenants at Michaelmas, realizing 18s. a year.<sup>27</sup>

The bishops of Coventry and Lichfield remained lords of Itchington till 1547, when Richard (Sampson), then bishop, granted it with the advowson<sup>27a</sup> and all appurtenances to Thomas Fisher for a yearly rent of £50. This was confirmed by the dean and chapter the same year, as also a release of the £50 rent in 1548, the whole being ratified by the king, to be held in chief as of the manor of East Greenwich.<sup>28</sup> Fisher was also granted the return and execution of writs within the manors of Itchington and Tachbrook, which were henceforth to be known as the Liberty of Thomas Fisher in the county of Warwick.<sup>29</sup> The only survival of this concession is the brass matrix of a seal executed for his son Edward and now in the Museum at Birmingham.<sup>30</sup> It bears the figure of St. Edward the Confessor, and in front of him a shield charged with a kingfisher, between the initials E. and F., with the date 1581 above. The legend is: SIGILLVM. PECULIARIS. IVRISDICTIONIS. DE. FFYSSHERS. ITCYNGTON. Fisher, who was a confidential agent of John Dudley, Viscount Lisle and later Duke of Northumberland, and of the Protector Somerset,<sup>31</sup> seems to have been a typical *nouveau riche*, of his time, and Dugdale suggests that the conveyance of two valuable manors to him by Bishop Sampson was to gain favour at court in view of the changes in religion, regarding which the bishop was conservative.<sup>32</sup> Fisher died in possession of the manor in 1577;<sup>33</sup> it had been settled, probably in 1558,<sup>34</sup> on his wife Winifred, now deceased, and his son and heir, Edward, was then 30. The latter dealt with the manors of Upper and Nether Itchington in 1576,<sup>35</sup> and 1592,<sup>36</sup> as did his son John in 1602, when he conveyed land and a windmill to James Enyon.<sup>37</sup> By this time the Fisher estates were heavily encumbered owing to Edward's extravagance, and the manor of Over Itchington had been taken into the queen's hands



FISHER. Gulet a feste voir between two harvots with wings expanded in chief and a dolphin in base argent all within a border engrailed argent.

<sup>16</sup> Kemble, *Codex Dipl.* iv, 253-4.

<sup>17</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* i, 305.

<sup>18</sup> *Cal. Chart. R.* v, 99.

<sup>19</sup> Dugd. 349.

<sup>20</sup> *Place-Names of Warw.* 171.

<sup>21</sup> *Magnus Reg. Album* (Wm. Salt Soc.), no. 262. <sup>22</sup> *Cal. Chart. R.* ii, 18-19.

<sup>23</sup> *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 783.

<sup>24</sup> Dugd. 349, quoting *Exch. K.R.* Misc. Bks. 15 (now illegible).

<sup>25</sup> *Tax. Ecol.* (Rec. Com.), 250.

<sup>26</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1321-4, pp. 255-6.

<sup>27</sup> Add. MS. 6165, fol. 173.

<sup>27a</sup> The cathedral precentors, however, continued to hold the patronage. See 'Advowson' below.

<sup>28</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1548-9, p. 403.

<sup>29</sup> *Ibid.* 1549-51, p. 19.

<sup>30</sup> *Proc. Soc. Ant.* (Ser. 2), xv, 19.

<sup>31</sup> *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

<sup>32</sup> Dugd. 349.

<sup>33</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), clxxxiii, 94.

<sup>34</sup> There was a settlement by Fisher (under his other name Hawkyins), his wife, and Bishop Bayne of Lichfield on Richard Hawkyins and John Skyrowe; Feet of F. Warw. Trin. 4 & 5 Ph. & Mary.

<sup>35</sup> *Recov. R.* Mich. 18-19 Eliz. ro. 156.

<sup>36</sup> *Ibid.* Trin. 34 Eliz. ro. 1505.

<sup>37</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 44-5 Eliz.

in 1597 to liquidate his debts, and was still so in 1601 after the death of the then tenant Richard Stoney.<sup>38</sup> In 1610–11 John Fisher sold the manors to Thomas Cox of Hunningham,<sup>39</sup> after which the upper and lower manors parted company. Thomas Cox, junior, son of the preceding,<sup>40</sup> is said to have married Judith Fisher of Warwick Priory (? sister of John);<sup>41</sup> he, in association with William Tyn and Alice his wife, conveyed to Thomas Wood and Humphrey Lee a part of the manor of Itchington Episcopi alias Over Itchington in 1631.<sup>42</sup> Ten years later Over Itchington was in the hands of Samuel Cranmer, who held this manor of the king as of East Greenwich,<sup>43</sup> and his son Caesar was dealing with it in 1656<sup>44</sup> and 1696.<sup>45</sup> Caesar was created a knight in 1677, and it was probably his only surviving son Charles, who was unmarried in 1696,<sup>46</sup> who about 1719 sold the upper manor to Vice-Admiral Sir Thomas Hardy.<sup>47</sup> He was lord in 1731<sup>48</sup> and died the following year,<sup>49</sup> his son Thomas being lord in 1747.<sup>50</sup> The manor was held in 1753 by George and Constance Denton,<sup>51</sup> and their daughter married Wenman Coke who dealt with Upper Itchington manor in 1770<sup>52</sup> and was lord in 1773;<sup>53</sup> he died in 1776, and his widow Elizabeth was lady of the manor in 1786.<sup>54</sup> She died in 1810, but between 1800 and 1822 Edward Tomes was lord of the upper manor.<sup>55</sup> After this date only one manor is mentioned in Bishop's Itchington, of which H. T. Chamberlayne of Stoney Thorpe, who married Mary, only child of Edward Tomes, was lord in 1838,<sup>56</sup> and after his death in 1875 the manor apparently went to his third son S. B. H. Chamberlayne of Witherley Hall, who was lord in 1900<sup>57</sup> and at his death in 1931,<sup>58</sup> when he was succeeded by his son Col. E. Tankerville Chamberlayne.

The manor sold by the younger Thomas Cox to James (afterwards Sir James) Eynon of Flore (Northants.) about 1636<sup>59</sup> must have been the lower manor. According to Dugdale, Eynon re-sold his manor within five years of purchase to Sir David Conyngham,<sup>60</sup> but in 1662 Nether Itchington 'lately belonging to Sir James Eynons' was in crown hands owing to the forfeiture of William Purefoy, the late holder, for his share in the execution of Charles I. It then comprised 752 acres and was worth £415 4s. 3d. yearly,<sup>61</sup> and seems to have returned to Eynon's descendants; in 1670 Dorothy and Katherine, two of his coheirresses,<sup>62</sup> with their respective husbands Thomas Stanley and John Garrard, and Sir Henry Puckering<sup>63</sup> and Sir Charles Adderley, conveyed Nether Itchington to Fulke Greville, afterwards Lord Brooke.<sup>64</sup> A 'manor' in Bishop's Itchington was similarly dealt with between William Peyto and John Verney in 1683.<sup>65</sup> The Hon. Doddington Greville was lord of the manor of Nether Itchington in 1713<sup>66</sup> and Fulke Greville's great-grandson, Francis, 8th Baron (after-

wards Earl) Brooke, in 1730<sup>67</sup> and 1749.<sup>68</sup> Between 1755 and 1819 this manor was in the hands of the Taylor family of Birmingham.<sup>69</sup>

A portion of the Stoneleigh Abbey property in Radway, known as *RADWAY GRANGE*, was reckoned as part of Bishop's Itchington, apparently because the precentor of Lichfield Cathedral, who was rector of Bishop's Itchington, held 8 virgates in Radway for which by an agreement in 1275 he received 13s. 4d. annual rent from Stoneleigh Abbey.<sup>70</sup> For the descent, see Radway.<sup>71</sup> Thomas Cowper of Wellingborough, who was surveying the neighbourhood for inclosure purposes in 1758–9, noted 'the castle or high summer house (built by Mr. Miller of Radway) on the very top of Edge Hill, which commands a vast part of this kingdom, for with a telescope from the summit of this mountain places may be seen about 100 miles distant'.<sup>72</sup>

The church of *ST. MICHAEL* is situated *CHURCH* on the north side of the village and stands in a small churchyard. The old church, which originated as a chapel to the church of All Saints in Lower Itchington (destroyed by Thomas Fisher), at the beginning of the 19th century consisted of a chancel and nave, structurally undivided, with a bell-turret at the west end. Judging from the view of it in the Aylesford Collection it had no external features earlier than the 17th century. In 1834 a small brick tower was added.<sup>72a</sup> The whole church was rebuilt in 1872 and consists of a chancel, nave, north aisle, west tower, organ chamber, and south porch. It is built of squared and coursed stonework and has a tiled roof of steep pitch. Internally all the walls are plastered and the floors tiled. The chancel is lighted by a tracery window of three trefoil lights on the east, on the south by a square-headed window of four trefoil lights, using old stone mullions, and a similar one of two lights. The south side of the nave has a porch with a trefoiled light on either side; the doorway has a moulded pointed arch, the mouldings dying out on played jambs. East of the porch are three tracery windows, one of four trefoil lights and the others of two. The north aisle has three tracery windows, one of three trefoil lights and the others with two, and on the west another of three. The organ chamber is at the east end of the aisle; it is lighted by a window of two trefoil lights on the east and has an entrance door on the north side with a flat shouldered head. The tower, which is without buttresses, is in two stages, with a weathered offset to the upper stage, gargoyles at each corner, and a plain parapet. The west door has a pointed arch of two played orders with a two-light tracery window over, and above a narrow rectangular light; on the south side there is a similar light with a clock dial above it. In the north-west angle there is a staircase turret with an

<sup>38</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), clxvi, 81.

<sup>39</sup> Dugd. 349.

<sup>40</sup> This family also seems to have been in financial trouble over the manor, which was seized into crown hands for the debts of Thomas Cox and the remainder of a term of 21 years granted to George Kirke, one of the Grooms of the Bedchamber, in 1628: *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1627–8, p. 524.

<sup>41</sup> Nichols, *Leics.* iv, 864.

<sup>42</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Hil. 6 Chas. I.

<sup>43</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccxcvi, 84.

<sup>44</sup> Recov. R. Hil. 1656, ro. 58.

<sup>45</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Trin. 8 Wm. III.

<sup>46</sup> *Le Neve's Pedigree* (Harl. Soc. viii),

327.

<sup>47</sup> Dugd. 350.

<sup>48</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations, Shire

Hall, Warwick. <sup>49</sup> *Dier. Nat. Biog.*

<sup>50</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations.

<sup>51</sup> Ibid.

<sup>52</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 10 Geo. III.

<sup>53</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations.

<sup>54</sup> Ibid.

<sup>55</sup> Ibid. <sup>56</sup> Ibid.

<sup>57</sup> Kelly, *Directory Warw.* (1900).

<sup>58</sup> Burke, *Landed Gentry*; P.R.O. List.

<sup>59</sup> Dugd. 349. James Eynon, Sir James's

father, was Cox's brother-in-law: Baker,

*Northants.* i, 153. <sup>60</sup> Dugd. 349.

<sup>61</sup> *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1660–1, p. 285;

1661–2, p. 527.

<sup>62</sup> Baker, *Northants.* i, 153.

<sup>63</sup> Edward Fisher (see above) had sold some of his estates to Sir John Puckering, Sir Henry's ancestor (*D.N.B.* vii, 73).

<sup>64</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Trin. 22 Chas. I.

<sup>65</sup> Ibid. Mich. 35 Chas. II.

<sup>66</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations.

<sup>67</sup> Dugd. 350; G. E. C., *Compl. Peerage*,

2nd ed., ii, 334–5.

<sup>68</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations.

<sup>69</sup> Ibid.

<sup>70</sup> Dugd. 351.

<sup>71</sup> *V.C. Warw.* v, 142.

<sup>72</sup> Letters of T. Cowper (Northants.

Record Society).

<sup>72a</sup> White, *Directory of Warw.* (1850),



# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

external entrance, and on the north face another clock dial. The belfry has tracery windows of two trefoil lights on all four faces.

The chancel (19 ft. 6 in. by 20 ft. 1 in.) has a mosaic reredos at the east end and one step to the altar. On the north side there is an arch to the organ chamber. In the floor there is a white marble slab to Margaret, wife of Lord Chief Justice Willes, died 1757; and two slate slabs, one to John Willes, D.D., died 1700, the other to William Willes, son of John Willes, Chief Justice of Chester, died 1729; and on the south wall of the tower there is a memorial to John Willes, died 1761.

The nave (33 ft. 1 in. by 20 ft. 1 in.) has a trussed rafter roof, plastered between the rafters. The font, in the south-west corner, is octagonal and made up of old stones, probably from the arcade of the earlier church. The chancel arch of two orders rests on short shafts of coloured marble resting on fluted stone corbels. The pointed tower arch is of two splayed orders, the outer carried down to the floor and the inner dying out on the wall. The nave arcade of three bays has pointed arches springing from circular shafts with moulded bases.

The north aisle (33 ft. 1 in. by 14 ft. 11 in.) has an arch at the east end to the organ chamber similar to that from the chancel.

The tower (11 ft. by 11 ft.) has a mural monument in marble, flanked by Doric pilasters, in memory of Thomas, the son of Sir Thomas Hardy, Rear Admiral, died 1749; on it is a shield, sable on a chevron or three griffin's heads erased sable between three scallops or.

Of the five bells by Taylor & Co., 1874, two were recast from bells of which one was probably by Watts of Leicester and the other by Pack and Chapman.<sup>73</sup>

The registers commence 1585.

By about the middle of the 12th century the church of Itchington had been attached as a prebend to the precentorship of Lichfield; which arrangement was confirmed c. 1177 by Bishop Richard Peche.<sup>74</sup> Several grants of lands and rents were made to the church of All Saints in the middle of the 13th century,<sup>75</sup> and in 1253 the bishop granted to the precentor additional land adjoining his rectorial house.<sup>76</sup> By 1279 the precentor's holding included 1 carucate in demesne and 4 virgates held by 8 free tenants.<sup>77</sup> A vicarage had been constituted and in 1282 (?) was increased; at the same time the ancient house of the church in Over Itchington, in which the priest ministering there used to live, was made over to the vicar, who was to provide a chaplain there.<sup>78</sup> In 1291 the value of the church with its chapels (of Over Itchington, Chadshunt, and Gaydon) was £40;<sup>79</sup> and in 1535 the vicarage and rectory were each rated at £26 13s. 4d.<sup>80</sup> The advowson remained with the precentor, except for one presentation by the Crown in 1586 (probably during a vacancy) and one by Thomas Coxe, lord of the manor, in 1621,<sup>81</sup> until it passed, under the Act of 1840, to the bishop (the Bishop of Coventry since the formation of that see).

<sup>73</sup> Tilley and Walters, *Church Bells of Warwick*, 175.

<sup>74</sup> *Magnum Reg. Album* (Wm. Salt Soc.), no. 180.

<sup>75</sup> *Ibid.* nos. 192, 194-6, 200-2.

<sup>76</sup> *Ibid.* no. 182.

<sup>77</sup> *Dugd.* 349.

<sup>78</sup> *Magnum Reg. Album*, no. 183.

Poor's Allotment. By the award of

*CHARITIES* the Commissioners under the Act for

Inclosing the Common Lands within this parish dated 29 May 1775 an allotment was set out and awarded to trustees of a parcel of land lying on Bishop's Itchington Heath containing 8 a. o. r. 1 p. which the Commissioners adjudged to be equivalent to the custom enjoyed by the poor people of the parish of cutting furze, or furze bushes, in certain places of the heath.

The Rev. Dr. Holt. It is stated in the Returns under Gilbert's Act that the Rev. Dr. Holt by will in 1734 gave to the poor £20.

John Huckson. The same Returns mention a gift of land and tenements by John Huckson for repairing the bridges and highways of Over Itchington and to the poor of Bishop's Itchington.

The above-mentioned charities are regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 17 February 1871, which contains provisions for the application of the income for the benefit of the most deserving and necessitous inhabitants of the parish.

The annual income of the charities amounts to £21 approximately.

John Spraggett by will dated 1 August 1873 gave to the resident minister, churchwardens, and overseers of the poor of the parish £200, to apply the annual income in the purchase of coals to be distributed in the early part of January amongst the aged widowers and widows living in the parish. The annual income of the charity amounts to £5 7s.

The Rev. James Hamer Scowcroft by will dated 20 February 1897 devised to the vicar of Bishop's Itchington the building known as the Conservative Club and Village Reading-room, to be maintained for the furtherance of Conservative principles and religious and mental improvement. He also devised to the vicar the freehold land known as Pool Yard and Brothers or Vermin Close situated in the village, one moiety of the income thereof to be used towards the church expenses (especially the organist's salary) and the other moiety for the maintenance of the Club and Reading-room.

The demised land was sold in 1899 and one moiety of the net proceeds invested in trust for the Ecclesiastical Charity. The annual income of this charity amounts to £2 15s. 0d.

The charity consisting of the Conservative Club and Village Reading-room is now regulated by a scheme of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 19 June 1902, appointing managers to maintain the Bishop's Itchington Parish Room for the use and benefit of the inhabitants of the parish for the purposes therein stated.

The Bishop's Itchington Memorial Hall. By an Indenture dated 6 April 1922 Sir Michael Henry Lakin, bart., conveyed to trustees a piece of land in Bishop's Itchington together with the Memorial Hall erected thereon to hold the same upon trust to permit the premises to be appropriated and managed by a committee of 12 members and 5 ex-officio members, and empowers them to make rules for the internal management and use of the Hall, but subject to the approval of the trustees.

<sup>79</sup> *Tax. Ecl.* (Rec. Com.), 241.

<sup>80</sup> *Valor Ecl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 71, 131.

<sup>81</sup> *Dugd.* 350.



BISHOP'S ITCHINGTON CHURCH, c. 1820



LONG ITCHINGTON CHURCH, c. 1820



## LONG ITCHINGTON

Acreage: 4,869.

Population: 1911, 1,178; 1921, 1,227; 1931, 1,229.

Long Itchington is a large parish<sup>1</sup> and village, adjoining Southam on the north and west. The river Itchen follows a winding course from south to north across the parish. The village, typical of the 'roadside' as opposed to the 'squared' type though not perhaps unusually noticeable for its length,<sup>2</sup> is on its right (north) bank in the centre of the parish, west of the Southam-Coventry road, at its junction with the village street, where there is a circular pond surrounded by well-grown poplar trees in an open green skirted by houses. For the most part the houses are 18th- and 19th-century, built of red brick with tiled roofs, but here and there are half-timbered cottages with red brick infilling. A little west of the church is a rectangular late-16th-century timber-framed house with diagonal timbering and plaster, gabled projections at each end, and tiled roof; it has been extensively restored and divided into two cottages.

'Tudor House' is on the west side of the main road, with its north front to the road. The original building, dating from the late 16th century, was a long rectangular two-story one with a stone ground floor and a slightly projecting timber-framed upper story. In the 17th century a narrow timber-framed addition was made, extending the whole length of the house and finished with a series of five continuous gables. The south front is built of sandstone ashlar and is lighted by four two-light, square-headed windows with moulded mullions, jambs, and heads, two on either side of a central door. All that remains of the original doorway is a flat head with a keystone and traces of an architrave, the jambs being rebuilt in red brick. The upper floor is projected on its floor joists and is lighted by seven equally spaced three-light, square-headed windows. The north front is symmetrical, with vertical framing, a series of five gables with plain modern barge-boards, a chimney-stack towards each end, and a tiled roof. The gables project on shaped brackets and have two-light windows to the roof space in each. Directly below each gable there are four-light windows to both floors, except to the centre, where the window has been replaced by a modern door. The east and west gable ends have been practically rebuilt in red brick. The interior has been completely modernized, but in the addition there is a contemporary oak staircase with turned balusters, square newels with ball finials, and a moulded handrail.

The Warwick and Napton Canal, a branch of the Oxford Canal system, crosses the parish from east to west, and with the Weedon-Leamington branch of the old L.M.S. Railway<sup>3</sup> has helped the development of quarries and cement works which now occupy large areas in the east of the parish, and whose chimneys are prominent landmarks in the generally flat country of

eastern Warwickshire. In spite of its large extent there is little variation in height in the parish from about 350 ft. at Long Itchington Wood in the west to about 230 ft. by the Itchen in its lower reaches. The boundaries do not seem to have changed since they were described in 1001,<sup>4</sup> though the only landmarks which have retained their names are the Itchen and Snowford (Bridge).

A windmill and a water-mill are mentioned in 1347 and 1353<sup>5</sup> and a fishery in 1305.<sup>6</sup> In 1775 87 yards-lands, or 2,000 acres, in Long Itchington and Bascote (a hamlet in the south-east part of the parish, and formerly a separate manor) were inclosed by Act of Parliament;<sup>7</sup> 154 acres had been inclosed by Edward Odingsels, lord of the manor, and others in the early 16th century.<sup>8</sup>

St. Wulfstan, Bishop of Worcester, was born at Long Itchington in the early years of the 11th century.<sup>9</sup>

Ethelred 'The Unready' in 1001 gave  
MANORS 25 mansos in [LONG] ITCHINGTON  
to his thegn Clofio.<sup>10</sup> In 1086 the manor

was in possession of Cristina, sister of Edgar Atheling, who had received it from William the Conqueror; the name of the immediate pre-Conquest tenant is not recorded in Domesday Book. It was assessed at 24 hides and contained two mills and woodland 2 furlongs in length and one in breadth;<sup>11</sup> it had fluctuated widely in value, having been worth £12 in 1066, £36 when given to Cristina, and £20 in 1086. Cristina retired to the nunnery of Romsey (Hants),<sup>12</sup> and her lands came into possession of the Limesis. Their chief seat was at Ulverley or Wolverley in Solihull, but it is probable that Long Itchington, as one of the most extensive and valuable manors in Warwickshire, represented one of the 2 knight's fees held by Gerard de Limesi or his son John in the later 12th century.<sup>13</sup> The latter died before 1195, when Hugh Bardolf had custody of his lands.<sup>14</sup> John's son Hugh dying without issue,<sup>15</sup> the Limesi property was divided between his aunts Basile, wife of Hugh de Odingsels, and Eleanor, wife of David de Lindsey, a moiety of Long Itchington falling to the former. The division was formally ratified in 1213 when Hugh de Odingsels and Basile obtained livery of their half of the Limesi estates for a payment of 500 marks over 3 years, for which their sons Hugh and William stood surety.<sup>16</sup> The elder Hugh took part in the siege of Bytham castle (Lincs.) in 1221, and was authorized to levy scutage on his military tenants therefor;<sup>17</sup> he held lands in Itchington for a knight's fee, and for a fifth and for a twentieth of a fee, in 1235-6.<sup>18</sup> His son Gerard succeeded him four years later,<sup>19</sup> and in 1241-2 was excused attendance on the king in Gascony for a payment of £50, which he was entitled to obtain from his tenants by scutage.<sup>20</sup> He died, probably in 1265, when his son Hugh was under age, the wardship of

<sup>1</sup> The largest in Knightlow Hundred except Stoneleigh and Kenilworth.

<sup>2</sup> It is just under  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from east to west.

<sup>3</sup> One of the latest lines to be constructed. Not shown on the 1889 O.S. 6-in. map. There is a station (Southam and Long Itchington) near the village.

<sup>4</sup> Kemble, *Codex Dipl.* no. 705; *Place-Names of Warwick*, 133 n.

<sup>5</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ix, 25; x, 57.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.* iv, 318.

<sup>7</sup> Slater, *Engl. Peasantry and Encl.* 303.

<sup>8</sup> Leadam, *Domesday of Incl.* 445-7.

<sup>9</sup> *Dire. Nat. Biog.*

<sup>10</sup> Kemble, *Codex Dipl.* iii, 316 (no. 705).

<sup>11</sup> *P.C.H. Warw.* i, 341.

<sup>12</sup> *Anglo-Saxon Chron.* (Rolls Ser.), ii,

187. The date is given as 1086.

<sup>13</sup> *Red Bk. Exch.* (Rolls Ser.), 30, 110,

126, 149, 702.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.* 110, 126; *Pipe R.* 7 Ric. I (Pipe

R. Soc.), 191.

<sup>15</sup> Dugd. 343.

<sup>16</sup> *R. de Obl. et Fin.* (Rec. Com.), 507.

<sup>17</sup> *Rot. Litt. Claus.* (Rec. Com.), i, 475.

<sup>18</sup> *Book of Fees*, 509.

<sup>19</sup> *Ext. & R. Fin.* (Rec. Com.), i, 323.

<sup>20</sup> *Pipe R.* 26 Hen. III (ed. Cannon), 128.



# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

his heir and lands being placed with Edmund Crouchback.<sup>21</sup> Hugh did homage and had livery of his lands in 1267.<sup>22</sup> In 1292 he purchased from John de Pynkeny the moiety of the manor (except £12 of land quitclaimed by John to Robert de Pynkeny in 1285<sup>23</sup> and 6 virgates which Thomas de Boltesham had for 6 years), which John had inherited through his great-grandmother Alice, daughter of Eleanor the Lindsey heiress.<sup>24</sup> John de Pynkeny was later hanged for a felony, and in 1294 there was a dispute between Robert de Pynkeny and Hugh de Odingsels, the latter being in possession of the manor when it was taken into the king's hands owing to the felony.<sup>25</sup> It was confirmed to Hugh, at that time about to proceed to Gascony in the king's service, and he died seised of it in 1305 when it included pleas of court, a windmill, and a fishery, and was held of the king in chief.<sup>26</sup> His son John was concerned in the execution of Piers Gaveston, for which he received the king's pardon in 1313,<sup>27</sup> and at his death in 1336 the assessment of the manor, which he held jointly with his wife Emma,<sup>28</sup> was said to be a third of a knight's fee.<sup>29</sup> Emma survived her husband ten years;<sup>30</sup> their son, another John, died in Gascony in 1352 at the age of 40, when the manor was stated to contain a 'little park of 28 acres with deer', and a water- as well as a windmill, and was rated as a complete knight's fee.<sup>31</sup> Two years later it was committed to John's son (John III), though he was still under age, together with the manor of Pilton (Herts.), for 80 marks yearly;<sup>32</sup> he also paid 200 marks for licence to marry at will.<sup>33</sup> John proved his age in 1357,<sup>34</sup> and in the following year he narrowly escaped forfeiture of his lands for being concerned in breaking into and robbing the house of William de Shareshull at Barton Eode (Oxon.).<sup>35</sup> His lands and goods were, in fact, seized into the king's hands, an extent of Long Itchington manor showing 200 acres of arable, of which 90 acres were sown (pointing to a two-field economy); the windmill was worth 10s., but the water-mill was in ruins; tenants' rents amounted to £25.<sup>36</sup> 'But after this he became of good credit',<sup>37</sup> and was a commissioner of array for Warwickshire in 1377 and 1380,<sup>38</sup> and justice of the peace in 1379.<sup>39</sup> He died in 1380,<sup>40</sup> and his son John (IV) in 1403;<sup>41</sup> in each case while the heir was still a minor. Mary, wife of John Dodyngselles IV, possessed the manor in dower after her husband's death and held court leet and court baron.<sup>42</sup> Edward son of



ODINGSELS. *Argent a fesse and in chief two molets gules.*

John IV proved his age and had livery of his lands in 1415.<sup>43</sup> In 1418 he was a knight and commissioner of array,<sup>44</sup> and justice of the peace in 1422, 1424, and 1427.<sup>45</sup> In 1437 he received pardon for not appearing before the justices (he was not on the 1433 or subsequent commissions) regarding a debt of 40s. owed to Thomas Burgh of Lynn.<sup>46</sup> The manor continued to descend from father to son, but succeeding generations were less distinguished, though Edward Dodyngselles, the previous Edward's grandson, was justice of the peace from 1502 to 1509.<sup>47</sup> His son Edmund died in possession of the manor in 1523, when another son Humphrey had an annuity out of the property.<sup>48</sup> Edmund's eldest son, another Edmund, settled the manor on himself and his wife Anne in 1533; at his death in 1558 his son John, the last Odingsels owner of the manor, was 30.<sup>49</sup> He 'betaking himself to extravagant courses . . . dyed in a miserable condition . . . he became so poor that had not one Harewood, formerly his Tenant, taken him into his house out of pity, he had dyed in the street'.<sup>50</sup> When this happened is not recorded, but in 1566 he was vouchee and a party to a recovery of the manor with Richard Brookes and John Jeffreys,<sup>51</sup> the former having licence to alienate it the same year.<sup>52</sup> After a short period with Sir John Throckmorton<sup>53</sup> it came to Robert (Dudley), Earl of Leicester, in 1571-2.<sup>54</sup> He gave Queen Elizabeth a 'glorious entertainment' here on her way to Kenilworth in 1575,<sup>55</sup> and made a settlement of the manor and advowson of the church on Sir John Hubaud and others in 1580.<sup>56</sup> He bequeathed the manor after the death of his wife Lettice to his natural son Sir Robert Dudley.<sup>57</sup> The Countess of Leicester survived till 1634,<sup>58</sup> and was concerned in a recovery of the manor and manor-house with Sir Edward Blunt and others in 1612.<sup>59</sup> Meanwhile Sir Robert Dudley had failed to establish his legitimacy and gone abroad,<sup>60</sup> and the manor passed to Robert Sydney, Viscount L'Isle (from 1618 Earl of Leicester), his cousin,<sup>61</sup> who possessed it at his death in 1626.<sup>62</sup> Sir Robert Dudley's four daughters, Lady Alice Dudley, Lady Frances Kniveton, Lady Anne Holbourn, and Lady Katherine Leveson, claimed possession under their grandfather's will, and after a long Chancery suit were successful, the two latter with Sir Richard Leveson, Lady Katherine's husband, being vouchees in a recovery of 1656.<sup>63</sup> After this the manor is found divided into quarter parts, of which Lady Anne Holbourn took three, having purchased Lady Alice's share for £1,000 and taking also Lady Frances's share (she having died without issue) as it was Lady Anne who financed the lawsuit.<sup>64</sup> Lady Anne and Lady Katherine both died without issue, the former in 1663,<sup>65</sup> after which her

<sup>21</sup> Cal. Pat. 1258-66, p. 527.

<sup>22</sup> *Exc. e R. Fin. (Rec. Com.)*, ii, 459.

<sup>23</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xv), 1094; Cal. Close, 1279-88, p. 71.

<sup>24</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xv), 1094; Dugd. 343.

<sup>25</sup> Cal. Close, 1288-96, p. 356.

<sup>26</sup> Cal. Inq. p.m. iv, 318; Cal. Fine R. i, 512.

<sup>27</sup> Cal. Pat. 1313-17, p. 23.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid. 1321-4, p. 1.

<sup>29</sup> Cal. Inq. p.m. viii, 10.

<sup>30</sup> Ibid. ix, p. 11; Cal. Fine R. vi, 42.

<sup>31</sup> Cal. Inq. p.m. x, 57.

<sup>32</sup> Cal. Fine R. vi, 389.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid. vii, 74; Cal. Inq. Misc. iii, 313.

<sup>34</sup> Cal. Close, 1354-60, p. 383; Cal. Inq. p.m. x, 390.

<sup>35</sup> Cal. Pat. 1358-61, pp. 137-8.

<sup>36</sup> Cal. Inq. Misc. iii, 318.

<sup>37</sup> Dugd. 344.

<sup>38</sup> Cal. Pat. 1374-7, p. 497; 1377-81,

pp. 39, 473.

<sup>39</sup> Ibid. 1377-81, p. 312.

<sup>40</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. 4 Ric. II, 18.

<sup>41</sup> Ibid. 5 Hen. IV, 19.

<sup>42</sup> Ibid. 6 Hen. IV, 18.

<sup>43</sup> Cal. Close, 1413-19, p. 223.

<sup>44</sup> Cal. Pat. 1416-22, p. 198.

<sup>45</sup> Ibid. p. 461; 1422-9, p. 571.

<sup>46</sup> Ibid. 1436-41, p. 12.

<sup>47</sup> Ibid. 1494-1509, p. 663. His *inquisitio post mortem* has not been preserved

and the date of his death is uncertain. The

commission of 1510 (when he would have

been 37) is the first in which his name does

not appear.

<sup>48</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), xxxviii, 11.

<sup>49</sup> Ibid. cxvii, 208. <sup>50</sup> Dugd. 344.

<sup>51</sup> Recov. R. Mich. 8 Eliz.

<sup>52</sup> Pat. 8 Eliz. pt. 4. <sup>53</sup> Dugd. 344.

<sup>54</sup> Pat. 14 Eliz. pt. 8. <sup>55</sup> Dugd. 345.

<sup>56</sup> Feet of F. Div. Cos. Hil. 22 Eliz.

<sup>57</sup> Dugd. 344.

<sup>58</sup> G. E. C., *Compl. Peerage* (2nd ed.),

viii, 52.

<sup>59</sup> Recov. R. Trin. 10 Jas. I, ro. 17.

<sup>60</sup> *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

<sup>61</sup> G. E. C., *Compl. Peerage* (2nd ed.),

viii, 553.

<sup>62</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccclii, 102.

<sup>63</sup> Recov. R. Hil. 1656, ro. 97.

<sup>64</sup> Dugd. 968. See also Baker, *Northants.*

ii, 32. <sup>65</sup> *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

three shares were sold by decree in Chancery to Richard Newdigate (later 1st baronet), whose son Sir Richard sold them about 1719 to Thomas Grey, 2nd Earl of Stamford. Henry, Lord Grey, cousin of the latter, succeeded him and was lord in 1730<sup>66</sup> and 1737.<sup>67</sup> Francis Page appears as lord of the manor between 1752 and 1774; and William Grove in 1789 and his son Edward in 1795 were lords of the moiety of the manor called Newfields Farm.<sup>68</sup> Between 1824 and 1861 the Earls of Aylesford were recorded as lords of three-quarters of the manor<sup>69</sup> and the estate has descended in that family. The remaining quarter had come into possession of the Lords Leigh of Stoneleigh by 1716,<sup>70</sup> and the family has continued to hold a quarter of the manor.

In 1235-6, besides Hugh de Odingsels' three holdings, Long Itchington contained property held of him by Robert de Colingham, rated at half a knight's fee, William de Say and Nicholas le Bretun (a quarter of a fee each), also the land of Kedi rated at a twentieth of a fee.<sup>71</sup> A Ralph de Colingham had held land in Long Itchington in 1197<sup>72</sup> and 1221,<sup>73</sup> when he called upon David de Lindsey (a minor in ward to the king) to warrant his right to 12 virgates,<sup>74</sup> but there is no further documentary evidence of this holding, or of those of William de Say or of Kedi. The Bretun family, however, was for a long time associated with Long Itchington, particularly the hamlet, sometimes described as a manor, of *BASCOTE*, of which the overlordship was apparently still held by Edward Dodyngselles at his death in 1466.<sup>75</sup> In 1195 Robert Brito and Maud his wife, with Nicholas and Juliana, paid 5 marks for the recognition of 17s. worth of land in Sale and Bascode.<sup>76</sup> During the reign of John, Nicholas Bretun was confirmed in possession of 8 yardlands in Bascode and Long Itchington by David de Lindsey, descendant of Eleanor one of the Limesi heiresses, for a quarter of a knight's fee.<sup>77</sup> In 1313 Guy son of Peter le Bretun granted some of his possessions, including a mill, in Bascode, Long Itchington and elsewhere, and the reversion of lands held in dower by Simon de Mancetter and Mary his wife (presumably widow of Guy's father) to Peter de Lymesy and Alice his wife,<sup>78</sup> and in the following year made a settlement of others on himself, his wife Joan, and Maud widow of Thomas de Grey.<sup>79</sup> In 1352-3 Thomas, Guy's son, also made a settlement of his estates, including those in Bascode and Itchington;<sup>80</sup> shortly before his death (c. 1360) he made over his estates to William Bretun in trust for his son, to prevent the latter becoming the ward of the king, who had the custody of the Odingsels heir at the time.<sup>81</sup> After 1332, when Peter de Limesy granted part of his estate in Bascode to William Gaipin and Alice his wife,<sup>82</sup> the Limesy portion of Bascode

followed the descent of the manor of Arley (q.v.) till 1402, when Sir Ralph Rochford granted the manor of Bascode to Thomas Seyvill,<sup>83</sup> who held it of Sir John Dodyngselles in 1404<sup>84</sup> and was in possession in 1415.<sup>84</sup> His trustees conveyed it (c. 1420) to Thomas Molesey,<sup>85</sup> who in 1441 placed it in trust for the benefit of the town of Walsall, and died in 1451<sup>86</sup>. John Lyle, son of William Lyle one of the original trustees, tried to appropriate the property to his own use, but suffered a recovery in 1514 in favour of fresh trustees, Richard Hurst and John Forde.<sup>87</sup> Part of the proceeds of the estate were devoted to the celebration of mass for the souls of Thomas Molesey and his wife Margaret, so that it ranked as one of the chantries suppressed in 1546, when the value was £7 10s. 9d.<sup>88</sup> It remained in crown hands, though rented by Walsall for charitable purposes, till 1586, when it was granted at the petition of Sir James Croft, Comptroller of the Queen's Household, to new trustees, Francis Craddock and Michael Shawe.<sup>89</sup> In 1730 the manor produced about £100 annually for Walsall corporation, of which £22 or £23 was applied to charity.<sup>90</sup> The corporation disposed of the property in three lots by auction in 1918, the purchasers being Mr. W. C. Spencer, of Aston, Birmingham, Messrs. Kaye & Co. Ltd., of the Cement Works, Long Itchington, and Mrs. Louisa Alice Turner, of Bascode House, the manorial rights (then 14s. 6d. annual rents) going to the last named.<sup>91</sup>

In 1202 land in *STONEYTHORPE*, though not yet considered a separate manor, was held by military tenure; it was then settled between Thomas and Norman Sanson that 3 hides and 1 virgate, for which the former demanded a pound of cummin and the service of a quarter-fee while the latter acknowledged the pound of cummin only, should be rated at one pound of cummin and a fifth of a knight's fee.<sup>92</sup> In 1308 Robert Sampson and Margery his wife made a settlement of the manor of Stoneythorpe with Robert son of Robert le Shirreue of Southam,<sup>93</sup> and in 1311 they sold it to William de Bereford and Margaret his wife.<sup>94</sup> In another fine of the same year between these parties the manor is called that of *THORPE SAMPSON*.<sup>95</sup> Edmund de Bereford made a settlement of the manor in 1347,<sup>96</sup> at his death (1354) his second son John succeeded.<sup>97</sup> The manor was not held in chief, and in the inquiry following on John's death in 1356 was stated to be held of the Odingsels.<sup>98</sup> Eve, John's widow, was assigned dower from Stoneythorpe and other Bereford manors in the following year.<sup>99</sup> Sir Baldwin de Bereford, John's brother, to whom the manor ultimately passed by the settlement of 1347, conveyed it in 1388 to John Bray of Stretton-on-Dunsmore, Hugh Dalby and William Allesley,<sup>1</sup> and the next year the two former released their rights in

<sup>66</sup> Dugd. 344.

<sup>67</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations, Shire Hall, Warwick.

<sup>68</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>69</sup> *Ibid.* See also White, *Directory Warwick* (1850), p. 688, where Lord Guernsey (eldest son of the Earl of Aylesford) is given as lord.

<sup>70</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations.

<sup>71</sup> *Book of Fees*, 509, 514.

<sup>72</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xi), 68.

<sup>73</sup> Pipe R. 5 Hen. III, m. 15.

<sup>74</sup> *R. of Justices in Eyre in . . . Warwick* (Selden Soc.), 702.

<sup>75</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. 6 Edw. IV, 9.

<sup>76</sup> Pipe R. 7 Ric. I (Pipe R. Soc.), 190.

<sup>77</sup> Dugd. 347.

<sup>78</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xv), 1380; *Cal. Clois.*, 1323-7, p. 285; *Cal. Inq. Misc.*, i, 2052; ii, 818.

<sup>79</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xv), 1399. Maud was mother of Joan: Madox, *Formulare*, no. 729.

<sup>80</sup> *Hitt. MSS. Comm.* 10th Rep. pt. 6, p. 103 (Davenport MSS.).

<sup>81</sup> *Cal. Inq. Misc.* iii, 839.

<sup>82</sup> Sims, *Cal. Walsall Deeds*, no. 12.

<sup>83</sup> *Ibid.* no. 24.

<sup>84</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. 5 Hen. IV, 19.

<sup>85</sup> Sims, op. cit. no. 38.

<sup>86</sup> *Ibid.* nos. 43, 44, 46, 80.

<sup>87</sup> *Ibid.* nos. 51, 55.

<sup>88</sup> *Ibid.* no. 86; Dugd. 347-8.

<sup>89</sup> Dugd. 348.

<sup>90</sup> Sims, op. cit. no. 130. Many other deeds relating to Bascode are preserved at Walsall.

<sup>91</sup> Dugd. 348.

<sup>92</sup> *ex inf.* Town Clerk, Walsall.

<sup>93</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xi), 114. Possibly this was the one-fifth of a fee held by Hugh de Odingsels in 1235-6 (*Book of Fees*, 509).

<sup>94</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xv), 1277.

<sup>95</sup> *Ibid.* 1315.

<sup>96</sup> *Ibid.* (xviii), 1975.

<sup>97</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* x, 250. <sup>98</sup> *Ibid.* 321.

<sup>99</sup> *Cal. Clois.*, 1354-60, p. 346.

<sup>1</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xviii), 2308; *Cal. Ancr. Deeds*, i, 532 (C. 1474); iii, 324 (C. 3054).

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

the manor to Allesley.<sup>2</sup> The last-named granted it in 1393 to Thomas le Hore of Elmdon and Margaret his wife;<sup>3</sup> Thomas was descended from Joan, Edmund de Bereford's sister.<sup>4</sup> In 1403-4 William Hore, probably Thomas's son,<sup>5</sup> held the manor of Stoneythorpe of Sir John de Dodyngselles,<sup>6</sup> and in 1407 John Hore of Childerley (Cambs.) and Joan his wife, Sir Baldwin St. George and Sir Philip Seintclair (descended respectively from Agnes and Alice, Edmund de Berford's other sisters) passed their rights in the manor to William, John Hore of Solihull, and John Hilton.<sup>7</sup> A life-tenancy in the manor had been granted by Robert Hulton, John Hore, Hugh Dalby, and others to John Wyllenhale and Juliana his wife in 1401.<sup>8</sup> The manor

remained with the family, Staynes Chamberlayne being vouchee in a recovery of 1820.<sup>22</sup> Stoneythorpe Hall is still the seat of this family, in whom any remaining manorial rights are presumably vested. The Hall itself, which was rebuilt in the 17th century, has been completely modernized.

About the end of the 11th century Ralph de Limesi endowed his newly founded priory of Hertford with a carucate of land and two parts of his tithes in Long Itchington; his son Alan gave the church to the priory, and his grandson Gerard further land known as Grascroft.<sup>23</sup> The value of this property is not separately set out in the *Valor*,<sup>24</sup> but it was extensive enough to be reckoned as a manor and was granted in 1538 to Anthony Denny and Joan Champenowne his future wife.<sup>25</sup> Six years later, as a result of exchange of property, it passed to George Dacres.<sup>26</sup> In 1556 he and his wife Elizabeth conveyed lands and certain tithes from the demesnes of the manor in Bascote and Stoneythorpe to the then tenants, Thomas Bosworth<sup>27</sup> and William Fyrlsey<sup>28</sup>—the latter's holding apparently representing land formerly held by St. Mary's College, Warwick.<sup>29</sup> The remainder of his manor Dacres had leave to alienate to William Gent and William Fyrlsey.<sup>30</sup> Gent seems to have acquired Fyrlsey's rights, as in 1562 he settled the manor, held of the queen in chief, on his second son William in tail male, with contingent remainders to his eldest son Richard or his four daughters.<sup>31</sup> He died in 1564<sup>32</sup> and in the following year his son William Gent had licence to alienate the manor of Long Itchington called *BOSWORTH'S FARM* and certain tithes.<sup>33</sup> A similar licence was issued to him in 1567 to alienate to Thomas Fisher of London, draper, and Anthony Ludford.<sup>34</sup> After this no more is heard of this manor, except that a rent of £13 6s. 8d. from the manor of Bosworth's Farm and certain tithes, presumably the fee farm rent reserved to the Crown, was conveyed by Henry Roper and Joyce his wife (the eldest sister of William Gent)<sup>35</sup> to Robert Harolde, with warranty against the heirs of William Gent, in 1584,<sup>36</sup> and by Robert Knightley<sup>37</sup> and others to Robert Beale and John Powell in 1667.<sup>38</sup>

It was no doubt owing to the division of the Limesi property between the Lindseys and the Odingsels that the advowson of Long Itchington church became halved, one part being confirmed to Hertford Priory by Gerard de Lindsey in 1242<sup>39</sup> and the other passing from William de Odingsels, who had it of the gift of David de Lindsey, Gerard's brother, to Gerard de



CHAMBERLAYNE. *Gules a scutcheon argent with-in an orle of molets or.*



HORE. *Sable three cinquefoils argent pierced gules.*



HANSLAP. *Argent two bars gules over all a cross crosslet fitchy azure.*

continued in possession of the Hore family till the death of John in 1506, when it was held of the Odingsels at a quarter of a knight's fee.<sup>9</sup> Elizabeth, one of his daughters, died in 1509 (before the inquisition on her father's estate), and Amy, the other daughter, in 1517, when the heir was her aunt Joan wife of Nicholas Hanslap, then aged 30.<sup>10</sup> The Hanslaps, a Northamptonshire family, held the manor in unbroken male line for over a hundred years; Thomas Hanslappe was dealing with it in 1565,<sup>11</sup> another Thomas with Elizabeth (Chaplin) his wife in 1592,<sup>12</sup> and a third Thomas with his wife Anne and John Hanslap his son in 1622.<sup>13</sup> At the death of Thomas III the manor, held of the Earl of Leicester, was in the several occupations of himself, Richard Wagstaff of Harbury,<sup>14</sup> Robert Hanslappe, and Robert Batt.<sup>15</sup> Further transactions took place between John Hanslap, the third Thomas's son, and others in 1626 and 1642,<sup>16</sup> and in 1655 he, his wife Ann and others conveyed the manor to Ambrose Holbeach of Mollington (Oxon.), a noted lawyer of the time.<sup>17</sup> The son of the latter, another Ambrose, with Sara (Harvey) his wife, sold the manor to John Chamberlayne, citizen of London in 1671,<sup>18</sup> from whom it passed to his brother Francis (1679).<sup>19</sup> Francis Chamberlayne, son of the previous Francis, was lord in 1730;<sup>20</sup> he died without issue<sup>21</sup> but the

1619 (Harleian Soc. xii), 257.

<sup>15</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccclii, 85.

<sup>16</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 2 and Trin.

<sup>17</sup> Chan. I.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid. Warw. Mich. 1655; Recov. R.

Mich. 1655, ro. 57, 179; Dugd. 530, 532.

<sup>19</sup> Feet of F. Warw. East. 23 Chas. II.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid. Trin. 31 Chas. II.

<sup>21</sup> Dugd. 348.

<sup>22</sup> Burke, *Landed Gentry*, ed. 1846,

i, 203.

<sup>23</sup> Recov. R. Trin. i Geo. IV, ro. 264.

<sup>24</sup> Dugdale, *Mon. Angl.* iii, 300-1.

<sup>25</sup> *Valor Eccl.* Rec. Com., i, 451.

<sup>26</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xii (1), 384 (47).

<sup>27</sup> Ibid. xix (1), 25, cap. xxii.

<sup>28</sup> A later Thomas Bosworth died in

1625 holding land in Long Itchington:

Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), dcccxxxv, 76.

<sup>29</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1555-7, p. 93.

<sup>30</sup> *Mon. Actts.* (Dugd. Soc.), 94.

<sup>31</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1555-7, p. 95; Feet of F.

Warw. Mich. 2 and 3 Ph. and Mary.

<sup>32</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cxi, 192.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid.

<sup>34</sup> *Pat. R.* 7 Eliz. pt. 8, m. 41.

<sup>35</sup> Ibid. 9 Eliz. pt. 4, m. 23.

<sup>36</sup> Baker, *Northants.* i, 416.

<sup>37</sup> Feet of F. Warw. East. 26 Eliz.

<sup>38</sup> William Gent sold most of his property

to Richard Knightley; Baker, *loc. cit.*

<sup>39</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Trin. 19 Chas. II.

<sup>40</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xi), 602.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid. i, 432 (C. 473).

<sup>3</sup> Ibid. iii, 324 (C. 3053).

<sup>4</sup> Wrottesley, *Pedigree from Plea R.*

241.

<sup>5</sup> Described as 'of Elmdon' in the fine

of 1407 (see below). He was William

Allesley's son-in-law (Dugd. 348).

<sup>6</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. 5 Hen. IV, 19.

<sup>7</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xviii), 2424.

<sup>8</sup> *Cat. Anct. Deeds.* i, 435 (C. 497).

<sup>9</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), xxv, 12.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid. xxxix, 78; Early Chan. Proc.

415, no. 24.

<sup>11</sup> Feet of F. Warw. East. 7 Eliz.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid. Mich. 34-5 Eliz.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid. East. 20 Jas. I.

<sup>14</sup> His brother-in-law: *Vitit. Warw.*

Odingsels in 1258.<sup>40</sup> In 1320 the advowson with 4 acres of land was granted by John de Odyngseles to Hugh de Meryngton of Coventry<sup>41</sup> who seven years later held it in chief of the king by one thousandth part of a knight's fee.<sup>42</sup> His son John obtained licence in 1328 to alienate this land and the advowson to William de Clinton for charitable purposes,<sup>43</sup> and in the following year he was pardoned for acquiring further lands in Long Itchington in fee simple from Thomas de Botton, tenant-in-chief, and entering without licence, being allowed to retain these lands.<sup>44</sup> The portion alienated to William de Clinton, with 8 messuages, 6 yardlands, and 20s. of rent, was used by him to form part of the endowment of his college of chantry priests at Maxstoke in 1332-3,<sup>45</sup> later converted into an Augustinian priory to which the church was licensed to be appropriated in 1336.<sup>46</sup> John (Deyville), the first prior, granted some of the Itchington land to Richard de Hastang and Margaret his wife in 1338,<sup>47</sup> and two years later brought an assize of *novel disseisin* against William Corbet and Emma his wife and Sir John de Odingsels for dispossession of a free tenement and acre of land in Long Itchington. The Corbets were ordered to pay £10 damages but Sir John de Odingsels was acquitted.<sup>48</sup> In 1344 William de Clinton, now Earl of Huntingdon, received pardon for making a further grant of 3 messuages and 4 virgates to Maxstoke Priory without licence.<sup>49</sup> Geoffrey, vicar of Fillongley, gave 5 acres in 1383.<sup>50</sup>

The value of the appropriated rectory in 1535 was £16 13s. 4d. and of other Maxstoke property in Long Itchington £7 4s. 9d.;<sup>51</sup> in 1538 they were granted to Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk,<sup>52</sup> who the same year sold them to Robert Trappes, a London goldsmith, who passed them to his son Nicholas. At Nicholas's death in 1544 they were reckoned as a manor held of the king in chief;<sup>53</sup> he left two infant daughters as coheires, of whom Mary, the younger, married Lord Giles Paulet, third son of the Marquess of Winchester.<sup>54</sup> The manor may have been resumed by Robert Trappes, who survived till 1560,<sup>55</sup> but the next documentary evidence is in 1570-80, when William Byrde received licence to alienate it.<sup>56</sup> Fines were levied between Byrde and the prospective grantees Robert and Philip Mastall<sup>57</sup> and Edward Byrde<sup>58</sup> in the same year. In 1615 this manor came into the possession of James Enyon, senior and junior,<sup>59</sup> who were dealing with it four years later.<sup>60</sup> The younger James died in 1632; his father had settled the manor on Hannibal and James Horsey of Hunningham (his son-in-law and grandson) but the agreed rent was not paid, so that the Enyons resumed possession.<sup>61</sup> In 1637 James (later Sir James) Enyon, son of the younger James mentioned above, and his wife Jane (Newton) passed their interest in the rectory manor to Sir William Browne, Henry Browne, and Thomas

Browne.<sup>62</sup> Later it was in the hands of a branch of the Throckmorton family, Sir William Throckmorton and Elizabeth his wife dealing with it in 1665,<sup>63</sup> and Elizabeth, as a widow, and Sir Clement Fisher in 1693.<sup>64</sup> It seems later to have followed the descent of the manor of Grandborough (q.v.), being connected with that manor in fines of 1769<sup>65</sup> and 1789.<sup>66</sup>

Thomas de Boltesham, probably the Thomas who held a 6-year tenancy of 6 virgates in Long Itchington in 1292,<sup>67</sup> died in 1305 in possession of 7 messuages and 7 virgates in villeinage, held of the king in chief by one tenth of a knight's fee,<sup>68</sup> and £10 in rents.<sup>69</sup> His grandson and heir, then aged 12, was the Thomas de Botton from whom land was obtained by John de Merynton in 1329,<sup>70</sup> and it was presumably he who, as Thomas de Boltesham, sold other land here to Sir William de Clinton in 1333.<sup>71</sup>

The church of the *HOLY TRINITY CHURCH* is on the west side of the Southam-

Coventry road, in a small churchyard at the western end of the village. It consists of a chancel, nave, south aisle, west tower, north porch, and a vestry. The oldest part of the building is the south aisle, dating from early in the 13th century; the chancel, nave, and tower were built early in the 14th century, a clearstory was added to the nave in the 15th century and at the same time the nave arcade was rebuilt; the porch and vestry are modern. The church was restored in 1928. It is built of small roughly coursed limestone rubble with occasional squared blocks of red sandstone and red sandstone dressings.

The chancel has a steep-pitched tiled roof, a plinth of one splay, and a moulded string-course at the sill level of the windows. On the east there is a large tracery window with a pointed arch of two splays, hood-mould, and five ogee-headed lights; the tracery and mullions are all modern. The south side is divided into three bays by buttresses with gabled heads, the centre bay having a pointed doorway with a hood-mould and head-stops, the arch mouldings being continued down the jambs. Each bay has a window with pointed arches of two splayed orders and three lights, the centre window has uncusped lights, the others cinquefoil. The north side is similar, but has a modern vestry built against it which encloses the door to the chancel; it is built of squared limestone with a steep-pitched tiled roof, is lighted by pointed trefoil windows with hood-moulds, and has an entrance with a pointed arch on the west side.

The south aisle roof is of steep pitch with modern copings and finials to the gables and at each end wide modern buttresses have been added. In the east wall there is a 14th-century window of three lights, similar to those in the chancel, but of one splay. The south side retains the coved string-course, with one gargoyle of the earlier low-pitched roof below the present eaves

<sup>40</sup> Ibid. 773. By this date the other half had apparently been surrendered by Hertford priory, and was also reclaimed by William to Gerard de Odingsels.

<sup>41</sup> Ibid. (xv), 1533; *Cat. Anct. Deeds*, ii, 282 (B. 2260).

<sup>42</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* vii, 66.

<sup>43</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1327-30, p. 313.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid. p. 346.

<sup>45</sup> *Dugd.* 345, quoting MSS. in Dewes library.

<sup>46</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1314-18, p. 318. Cf. *Anct. Deeds* (P.R.O.), D. 2017, 2575, 11256.

<sup>47</sup> *Cat. Anct. Deeds*, ii, 282 (B. 2259).

<sup>48</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1338-40, pp. 524-5.

<sup>49</sup> Ibid. 1341-5, p. 358.

<sup>50</sup> Ibid. 1381-5, p. 279; *Cat. Anct. Deeds*, i, 318 (B. 1086); ii, 434 (B. 3730).

<sup>51</sup> *Palat. Escl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 73.

<sup>52</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xiii (2), 1182 (18 n).

<sup>53</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cxl, 182.

<sup>54</sup> Burke, *Landed Gentry*, ed. 1846, ii, 1424.

<sup>55</sup> Ibid.

<sup>56</sup> *Pat.* 22 Eliz. pts. 1, 12.

<sup>57</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Trin. 22 Eliz.

<sup>58</sup> Ibid. Div. Cos. Mich. 22-3 Eliz.

<sup>59</sup> Ibid. Mich. 13 Jas. I.

<sup>60</sup> Ibid. Warw. Trin. 17 Jas. I.

<sup>61</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cccclvi, 46.

<sup>62</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Hil. 12 Chas. I.

<sup>63</sup> Ibid. Trin. 17 Chas. I.

<sup>64</sup> Ibid. Warw. Trin. 5 Wm. & Mary.

<sup>65</sup> Ibid. Mich. 9 Geo. III.

<sup>66</sup> Ibid. Mich. 29 Geo. III.

<sup>67</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Cos. xv), 1094.

<sup>68</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* iv, 298.

<sup>69</sup> Ibid. v, 340.

<sup>70</sup> See note 44 above.

<sup>71</sup> *Anct. Deeds* (P.R.O.), B. 10372, 10921.

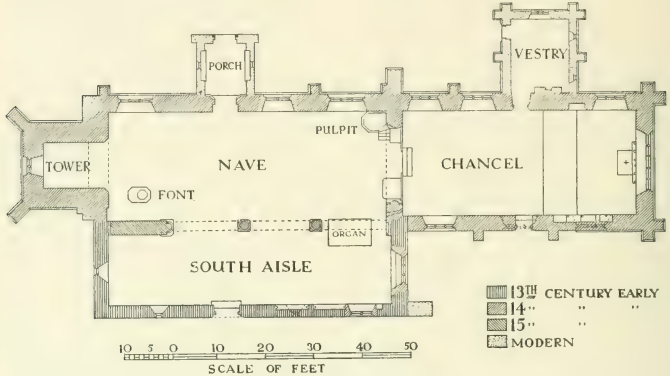


# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

gutter; there is a similar cove to the nave, which also had a low-pitched roof, both contemporary with the clear-story. There are three windows; that to the east is similar to the one in the east wall, but of two lights, the others are lancets having hood-moulds with head-stops. The south door is between the lancets and has a semi-circular arch of two moulded orders, the inner continued to the ground and the outer supported on attached shafts with foliated capitals; no bases are visible. The west end has a lancet window and above is the line of the earlier low-pitched roof. The north wall of the nave has been strengthened by a modern buttress in two stages at the west end and is partly

has a pointed tracery window of two splayed orders, the outer a deep one, two pointed trefoil lights, and a hood-mould with head-stops. Immediately above the apex of the window arch is a red sandstone band of sunk quatrefoils, which is carried round the north and east sides but omitted from the south, and a band of red sandstone at the sill level of the belfry windows. The belfry windows on all four faces have pointed-segmental arches, and two trefoil lights with transoms. The ringing-chamber has loop-lights on the north, west, and east, the one on the east now looking into the nave; on the north side there is a clock face.

The chancel (47 ft. 10 in. by 21 ft. 7 in.) has



PLAN OF LONG ITCHINGTON CHURCH

built over the original one. To the east is a window of three lights with a segmental-pointed arch of two orders, the inner moulded, the outer a splay, the mullions being carried up to the arch without heads; it has a hood-mould with return ends. West of the window there is a buttress which terminates at the level of the original wall-head. Between the buttress and the porch there is a modern pointed window with two trefoil lights. The porch is modern, with a tiled roof and a pointed entrance of two moulded orders supported on detached shafts with foliated capitals and moulded bases. The doorway has a richly moulded pointed arch, hood-mould with head-stops, and the mouldings continued down the jambs to splayed stops. West of the porch there is a window similar to the one to the east but with a pointed arch and two hollow-splayed orders. The clearstory has three windows on the north and south, placed towards the centre of the nave, each of two ogee trefoil lights of two hollow splays, with square heads and hood-moulds with returned ends.

The tower, which is not divided into stages, has a plinth of one wide splay, diagonal buttresses on the west in four stages, terminating at the string-course of an embattled parapet with the bases of broken pinnacles at the angles, central gargoyles on each face, and crowned by the base of a destroyed octagonal spire. Both the buttresses to the east wall have had later buttresses added to their lower stages. The west face

plastered walls, modern open king-post roof, and stone paving, with two steps to the altar. On the east wall there are stone brackets, one on each side of the window, one carved, the other a plain splay. The window has a moulded, segmental-pointed rear-arch, and hood-mould with head-stops. The altar table, which dates from early in the 17th century, has four massive turned and carved legs, carved framing, and table top with a gadroon edge; behind it is a modern stone reredos. The south wall has a beak-moulded string-course at sill level, and the doorway a segmental rear-arch; the three windows have chamfered pointed rear-arches and hood-moulds with head-stops, and splayed reveals. Near the east wall there is a double piscina and sedilia under one hood formed by the string-course carried down at each end and finished with head-stops. The piscina has pointed moulded trefoil heads supported on a mullion with moulded capital and base under a pointed arch pierced with a trefoil. The three sedilia seats have pointed cinquefoil heads, pierced spandrels, crocketed gables with foliated finials, trefoil panels and head-stops, supported on moulded shafts having foliated capitals and moulded bases. On the north side the string-course is continued and the windows follow those on the south side. To the east there is an Easter sepulchre with a trefoil pointed arch, its mouldings continued down the jambs; crocketed gable, foliated finials, and head-stops. Springing from the head-stops are plain pilasters with crocketed pinnacles and foliated



finials. The doorway, now leading to the vestry, has, for no obvious reason, been reversed; it has a moulded pointed arch, the mouldings dying out on plain splayed jambs, and a hood-mould with head-stops. Above the doorway there is a monument with columns supporting an entablature with a semicircular pediment containing a square incised brass to John Bosworth, died 1674. At the top in the centre is the figure of a man kneeling in prayer with the initials J. B., to the left a woman and the name Elinor, to the right a woman with the name Isabel. Below is an inscription recording his bequest of lands to provide 12 twopenny loaves every Sunday for poor inhabitants, and £10 yearly for a schoolmaster to teach the sons and daughters of the poor.<sup>72</sup>

The nave (57 ft. by 22 ft. 7 in.) has a modern tiled floor and a modern hammer-beam roof supported on 15th-century carved head corbels. The walls are plastered, except those below the sill level of the clear-story windows above the arcade. The original arcade was of four bays and in the 15th-century rebuilding the west bay was blocked and the walls reduced in thickness, leaving a springer and part of an arch in position against the west wall. At the eastern end part of the thicker arcade wall is visible below the corbel of the later arcade. The present arcade has three bays of pointed arches of two splayed orders, the inner splay hollow, supported on octagonal pillars with moulded capitals and bases on square pedestals with chamfered corners, at the east end on a corbel with paterae in a hollow moulding resting on a carved head; at the west end on a respond of half a pillar. There are paterae on the outer splay just above the capitals and at the apex of the arches. The clear-story windows on both sides of the nave have chamfered segmental rear-arches over wide-splayed jambs and sills. On the north the windows and the doorway have segmental-pointed rear-arches. The tower arch is pointed, of two splayed orders, the inner dying out on the wall, the outer continued to the floor on the nave side, and on the tower side both die out on the walls. Above the arch is a loop-light to the ringing-chamber and the band of quatrefoils continued from outside, level with the apex of the arch. There is a wide pointed arch of three moulded orders to the chancel, supported on three half-round shafts with moulded capitals and bases standing on dwarf walls 4 ft. high; on the chancel side the outer order stops on grotesque beasts crouching on the capitals. On the south side of the arch there is a squint with a trefoil head. A carved and traceried oak screen of 15th-century date, with double doors, has been cut and made up with modern work to fit the arch. Its mullions have been replaced with slender turned balusters, probably in the 17th century. The pulpit, placed on the north side of the chancel arch, is a large modern one of stone and coloured marble; and the font, which stands at the west end of the nave, is also modern, with a plain octagonal basin on a coloured marble shaft with a moulded capital and base.

The south aisle (58 ft. 2 in. by 14 ft. 8 in.) has a

modern open pitched roof, supported on earlier carved head corbels on the south wall and modern moulded corbels on the arcade. The window in the east wall has a semicircular rear-arch of one splay, hood-mould with head-stops, and wide-splayed reveals. The remaining windows have segmental-pointed arches over square jambs. At the east end of the south wall there is a piscina with a pointed trefoil head, the projecting quatrefoil basin and hood-mould have been cut away. In the south wall are two tomb recesses with pointed arches of two orders, the inner a trefoil of one splay supported on short shafts with moulded capitals and bases, the moulded outer order continues to the floor at the ends and the arches mitre in the centre.

The tower (9 ft. 4 in. by 9 ft. 4 in.) has a modern tiled floor. In the centre of the north and south walls, about 5 ft. above the floor, there are incised crosses, partly concealed by a matchboarded dado. The west window has a segmental-pointed rear-arch, splayed jambs and sill. The ringing-chamber and belfry floors are supported on continuous projecting splayed stringers instead of the more usual corbels or offsets.

The plate consists of a silver flagon inscribed: 'Francis and Thermuthis Fauquier<sup>73</sup> of Stoneythorpe 1795', a silver chalice and cover 1587, and a paten 1761.

There are two bells by Hugh Watts, 1623 and 1636, and two others by Henry Bagley, 1649 and 1670.<sup>74</sup>

The registers of baptisms and burials begin in 1653, those of marriages in 1713.<sup>75</sup>

The history of the advowson to *ADVOWSON* 1336, when it was granted by William de Clinton to Maxstoke Priory,<sup>76</sup> has already been traced with the descent of the lands of that priory in Long Itchington. It seems to have been retained by Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, to whom these lands were granted in the first instance, for the first post-Reformation presentation (1569) was made by his widow and her second husband, Richard Bertie.<sup>77</sup> Another presentation was made by the Crown the following year,<sup>78</sup> after which it descended with the main manor (q.v.) through the Earls of Leicester, Lady Anne Holbourne, and the Lords Leigh. Sir Roger Newdigate made three presentations in 1743, 1759, and 1783,<sup>79</sup> but early in the 19th century it was again being dealt with by representatives of the Leigh family.<sup>80</sup> The other half was held by the Newdigate family<sup>81</sup> until their share was acquired by William Adeock Ellis about 1895, when his son W. E. Ellis was presented to the living;<sup>82</sup> this share was held in 1915 by the executors of W. A. Ellis;<sup>83</sup> and in 1926 the patrons were Lord Leigh, the Bishop of Coventry, and the Rev. R. Ellis in turn.<sup>84</sup> Since 1935 the patronage has been with the Bishop of Coventry solely.<sup>85</sup>

The value of the church in 1291 was £22.<sup>86</sup> and in 1535 the rectory was worth £16 13s. 4d. and the vicarage £7 1s. 6d. in addition to 8s. for procurations and synodals.<sup>87</sup> An increase of £15 in the stipend of the minister was approved in 1657-8 by the Protector's Council.<sup>88</sup>

<sup>72</sup> The inscription is recorded in full in Dugd. 346. For the school see *V. C. H. Warwick*, ii, 370.

<sup>73</sup> Thermuthis daughter of Frances Chamberlayne married her cousin Francis Fauquier in 1787; Burke, *Landed Gentry* (1846).

<sup>74</sup> Tilley and Walters, *Church Bells of*

*Warwick*.

<sup>75</sup> *Birm. Arch. Soc. Trans.* xix, 99.

<sup>76</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1334-8, p. 318.

<sup>77</sup> Dugd. 346.

<sup>78</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>79</sup> *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.).

<sup>80</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 47 Geo. III.

<sup>81</sup> *Recov. R. Mich.* 53 Geo. III, ro. 51.

<sup>82</sup> *Clergy Lists*.

<sup>83</sup> Kelly, *Directory of Warwick*, (1900); Venn, *Alumni Cant.* pt. 2.

<sup>84</sup> Crookford.

<sup>85</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>86</sup> *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 242.

<sup>87</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 73, 63.

<sup>88</sup> *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1657-8, p. 242.

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

Richard Cleaver. Upon a benefaction table in the church at Long Itchington it is recorded that Richard Cleaver, who died on 6 January 1745, gave by his will to the minister, churchwardens, and overseers of the poor of this parish £20, the interest to be distributed (either in bread or money) on every St. Thomas's day to the poor of the parish.

Elizabeth Cleaver, who died in 1757, gave likewise by her will £20, the interest to be similarly distributed.

Ann George, who died in 1782, gave by her will £20, the interest to be distributed on St. Thomas's Day to the poor widows of this parish.

Joane Goode and John Goode. In the Returns under Gilbert's Act (26 Geo. III), it is stated that Joane Good and John Goode, at what period is not mentioned, gave for bread to the poor of this parish £40.

Mary Grimes, who died on 3 January 1826, gave £50, the interest to be distributed on Good Friday to poor parishioners.

Alice Pratt, who died on 24 July 1832, by her will gave £30, the interest to be paid in money on St. Thomas's Day yearly amongst 15 poor widows of this parish.

The annual income of the above-mentioned charities amounts to £4 6s. 2d.

John Bosworth, by will dated 16 October 1674, charged certain property with the annual payment of the sum of £5 4s. to be bestowed in bread to the poor inhabitants dwelling in the town of Long Itchington, so as there should be twelve twopenny loaves of wheaten bread placed on the communion table of Long Itchington every Sabbath day yearly, to be distributed after morning service to twelve of the poor inhabitants by the churchwardens and overseers of the poor. The rent-charge was redeemed in 1917 in consideration of a sum of £208 Consols, producing an annual income of £5 4s.

The Long Itchington Women's Blanket and Clothing Charity. By a Declaration of Trust dated 28 July 1888 a sum of £150 was settled upon trust, the income to

be expended by the vicar and churchwardens of Long Itchington in the purchase of blankets and warm clothing to be distributed annually (upon St. Thomas's Day or as near thereto as conveniently might be) amongst poor deserving women residing in the parish, with a preference to those who should have given some proof of provident habits.

The annual income of the charity amounts to £3 15s. 4d.

Sarah Chamberlayne. In the result of proceedings a scheme for the application of the charitable annuities and the funds comprised in the residuary charitable gift contained in the will of Sarah Chamberlayne, dated 13 January 1858, was settled and approved by the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice on 22 December 1894. By the scheme a body of trustees was appointed to administer the income, and it was provided that, subject to certain payments and events, the income be applied (a) in the payment to five poor widows or unmarried women not under the age of 50 years, or poor aged men or crippled, blind, or deaf and dumb males or females belonging to this parish, of the monthly sum of not exceeding £1 each; (b) in the payment to one of the said five poor women or other person, resident in the parish, the monthly sum of 15s. to lodge, board, and take care of one poor child who shall have lost both his parents, or who shall be blind, or crippled, or infirm, whether in body or mind, to be named by the trustees.

By a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 3 November 1916 it was provided that the maximum sum payable as mentioned in (a) above be increased from £1 to £1 1s. 8d.; and by another scheme of the said Commissioners dated 12 April 1927 it was provided that if and so far as the trustees are unable to apply the sum of £9 as provided in (b) above, they may apply the same or any part thereof in such manner as they consider most advantageous for the benefit of any poor child or children possessing the required qualifications.

## KENILWORTH

Acreeage: 5,914.<sup>1</sup>

Population: 1911, 5,776; 1921, 6,751; 1931, 7,592.

The parish, which in early times was heavily wooded and as late as the 17th century had extensive parks containing much timber, is now open, with considerable blocks of woodland only in the north, at Stonymoor Wood, and in the south-west, in Chase Wood. The ground slopes from 430 ft. at its northern extremity to 250 ft. in the town and then rises again very gently to about 300 ft. in the south. There are several small streams, of which two form the western boundary of the parish; and the Inchford Brook runs from south to north near its western edge and then turns east to run, as Finham Brook, through the town below the Castle, where it was dammed in medieval times to form the lake defences of the fortress, and the site of the Abbey. Its valley separates that part of the town to the north strung out along the High Street, leading to Coventry, parallel with the course of the brook, and that to the

south along the road, at right angles to the stream, to Castle End and the modern church of St. John at the point where the road forks to Warwick and to Leamington. Close to this fork the Coventry and Leamington branch of the old L.N.W. Railway enters the parish, having a station about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile north of the church. It is round the railway that most of the building in the late 19th century took place; in recent years there has been more development west of the road to Warwick and near the road to Stoneleigh, Kenilworth being now (1949) a residential town with a population of probably 10,000.

The High Street and parts adjacent to it were situated in the Abbey Manor and there was a separate community on the Warwick Road in the Castle Manor, which accounts for what, even to-day, seem like two separate places, divided by the present Abbey Fields. Each manor had a Court Leet,<sup>2</sup> many of whose duties, with others, are now carried out by the Urban District Council of Kenilworth, which under the Local Govern-

<sup>1</sup> Part of the borough of Warwick was transferred to Kenilworth in 1931, and a small portion of Leek Wootton in 1932, the present area of Kenilworth Urban District being 5,967 acres: Kelly, *Directory of*

*Warwick*, (1936).

<sup>2</sup> Last century the Court Leet of the Abbey Manor was held at the Two Virgins Inn, now the 'Virgins and Castle', and the Court Leet of the Castle Manor at the

King's Arms Inn, later famous as the inn at which Sir Walter Scott stayed in 1815 before writing the novel which made Kenilworth known throughout the English-speaking world.

ment Act of 1894 replaced the Local Board instituted in 1877.

Agriculture has been Kenilworth's main concern, but in the first half of last century there were here<sup>3</sup> a manufactory for horn combs, a chemical works for making sal-ammoniac and Prussian blue, and a tannery,<sup>4</sup> the last-named being the only survival. There is a brick-works, but the sandstone quarries<sup>5</sup> are things of the past. A few small factories have sprung up of late years, including those for making engineering parts and machine tools.

The buildings of the mill are still standing. In the eighties it was a steam flour-mill, and afterwards for a while an oil-cake factory. There was a mill attached to the castle in 1296.<sup>6</sup> This was on the Finham Brook and its bays, or pond-head, apparently gave the name of 'the Bays' (later 'Brays') to the southern outworks of the castle defences. In 1361 the manor had two mills,<sup>7</sup> the second being about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile to the south on a tributary of the Finham Brook. The abbey (or rather priory) had two mills which were valued at 6s. 8d. in 1291.<sup>8</sup> In 1612 Sir Robert Dudley, holding both manors, had three mills.<sup>9</sup>

In a survey of Kenilworth made about 1540 the town is said to be 'well builded with many fayr houses tyelwed and well inhabited'.<sup>10</sup> Of these few, if any, seem to have survived, but on Castle Green, opposite the castle, is a row of 17th-century timber-framed cottages with tiled roofs, and others, perhaps earlier, are to be found in the town, some with thatched roofs.

Old School House, situated in Barrowell Lane, is a pleasant example of a small Georgian house of two stories, built of red brick on a splayed plinth of red sandstone ashlar. The roof is tiled with a cornice of moulded bricks at eaves level. The lower windows have flat-gauged brick arches with stone keystones. There is a central doorway with a tablet above which reads as follows: 'This house and school was built by Mr. William Edwards, Chirurgion of Kenilworth and Mary his wife and endowed with twenty and two pounds Pr. Ann. for ye benefit of a Free School for the children of this Parish A.D. 1724.'

Fieldgate House, situated at the eastern end of the High Street, is an unspoilt Georgian residence of mid-18th-century date, three stories high, and built of red brick with pilasters at each end, moulded cornice, tiled roof, string courses of projecting brick at first and second floor levels. There are five sash windows to each of the two upper floors and two each side of a central door in the lower story, all the windows having their original sashes. The ground and first floor windows have flat-gauged brick arches with stone keystones.

Dudley House on Abbey Hill is of similar design and date, but with modern sashes and the four original windows of the ground floor replaced with two of three lights.

South of the High Street, behind the church of St. Nicholas, lie the scanty remains of the Augustinian monastery,<sup>11</sup> founded in 1122 as a priory but raised to the rank of an abbey about 1450.<sup>12</sup> The only buildings of which substantial portions remain above ground are

the 14th-century Gatehouse, and, south of it, a contemporary building tentatively identified as the Guest House. The Gatehouse, near the north-west corner of the precinct, faces north. It is of local red sandstone and consists of two vaulted compartments—the inner now in ruins—opening to the north by a four-centred arch. Between the two compartments is the gateway, with a large segmental arch, flanked on the west by a small doorway, with pointed arch, for foot passengers. In the east wall of each compartment is an arched recess for a stone seat 6 ft. wide; and in the west wall of the inner is a pointed doorway into the porter's lodge, with an ogee-headed light beside it. The lodge is divided into two halves, the northern originally two-storied, each story provided with a garderobe in a projection at the north-west corner. There are traces of a wall running south from the west side of the lodge, and of another running east, in line with the north wall of the nave of the church, from the north-east angle of the Gatehouse. The Guest House is a building of two stories, which formerly had an outside stair and a porch over the south door. The upper story has two-light ogee-headed windows. Of the monastic buildings only a few shapeless blocks of rubble rise above ground level.

The survey of 1540 in two places suggested the use of the abbey to provide stone for buildings in the castle, and the place was evidently efficiently exploited as a quarry. Excavation, however, has enabled a great part of the ground-plan to be recovered. The 12th-century church had a narrow aisleless nave, which, owing to the existence of the cloister on the south and rising ground on the north, was never enlarged. The transepts were extended eastwards in the 13th century, and in the 14th a presbytery was added east of the choir and the central tower was rebuilt. This tower seems to have been too slender to house the bells, for which purpose an octagonal bell-tower was built just to the north of the west end of the church later in that century. The 12th-century apsidal chapter-house south of the south transept was retained, but the dorter, in the same range, was rebuilt and enlarged in the 15th century. The southern range of the cloister, in which foundations of the sub-vault to the frater have been found, seems to date from the 14th century, and the infirmary, lying to the east of the cloister, was of 13th-century construction.

After the Dissolution the site of the abbey was granted to Sir Andrew Flammock, who died seised of it in 1549,<sup>13</sup> when it passed to his son William, who held it until he died in 1560<sup>14</sup> leaving as heir his daughter Catherine, aged 2, who afterwards married John Colburn of Moreton Morrell. This John was frightened into selling it 'on easy terms' to the Earl of Leicester,<sup>15</sup> and it then descended with the manor.

The parish church of St. John the Evangelist was erected at the south end of the town in 1852, when a new parish was created. It is a mixture of Gothic styles and consists of a chancel, nave, south aisle, vestry, and west tower, built of red sandstone rubble with ashlar dressings. The tower, in two stages, terminates in an octagonal spire with canopied steeple lights. The roofs have a steep pitch covered with tiles.

<sup>3</sup> *Excursion to Kenilworth* (1824); *Beck's Guide* (1847).

<sup>4</sup> A survey of the Abbey Manor in 1592 mentions 'a tannhouse', and also 'a cottage called Tyle House and clays to make tile': *Rent. and Surv.* (P.R.O.), portf. 27, no. 36. Remains of a Roman tile-kiln were found in Chase Wood in 1923: *Birm. Arch.*

*Soc.* 2, 54-6.

<sup>5</sup> The red sandstone of Kenilworth was used in many medieval churches in this county. The castle quarry lay  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile south of it; that of the abbey to the north, west of Fieldgate Lane.

<sup>6</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* iii, 288. <sup>7</sup> *Ibid.* xi, 93.

<sup>8</sup> *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 254.

<sup>9</sup> *Recov. R. Mich.* 10 Jas. I, ro. 253.

<sup>10</sup> *Rentals and Surveys* (P.R.O.), portf.

16, no. 22.

<sup>11</sup> E. Carey-Hill, in *Birm. Arch. Soc.* lii,

184-227. <sup>12</sup> *F.C.H. Warwick* 186-9.

<sup>13</sup> *Exch. Inq. p.m.* 1151, no. 3.

<sup>14</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cxxviii, 87.

<sup>15</sup> *Dugd.* 242.

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

Redfern Manor, situated about 1½ miles north-west of the town on the main Birmingham road, is said to have been assigned to the last Prior (? Abbot) of Kenilworth as a residence after the Dissolution.<sup>16</sup> It is a two-storied timber-framed house of early-16th-century date, facing south. Externally it has been plastered, a wide central gable with a small projection added to form an entrance hall with modern staircase, and the eastern end shortened and rebuilt in brick. It has a tiled roof and towards the western end a chimney-stack with four engaged diagonal chimney-shafts rebuilt on the original base. The remaining chimneys are modern. At the back are 18th-century additions, built of red brick. The original house was a long rectangular building, now divided by a central gable forming east and west wings, the east wing being a little shorter than the west. Internally it has been modernized, but a number of interesting features remain. On the ground floor the two rooms in the west wing are divided by a large back-to-back fire-place; the west side still retains its original stone chimney-piece, which has a flat moulded head with rounded corners and moulded jambs finishing on a square stop; the east side chimney-piece has been destroyed and a modern fire-place inserted in the recess. Across the east room of this wing there is a large moulded beam supported on moulded wall-posts with curved brackets which continue the beam mouldings and finish on a large splayed base. The room in the east wing has a large wide fire-place but the original chimney-piece has been replaced with an 18th-century moulded shelf, with cupboards on either side of the recess, which has a modern grate. Back to back with this is a similar sized fire-place in the early-18th-century addition. The beams in this addition are chamfered with moulded stops. On the upper floor the fire-place in the west wing retains in the east room its original stone chimney-piece with a flat moulded head continuing down the jambs to a splayed stop. The beam, wall-posts, and brackets in this room repeat those below. Some of the timber-framing is visible on the upper floor, including two corner posts at the western end. To the east of the house are a range of 18th-century farm buildings, and part of a timber-framed barn of brick construction, probably contemporary with the house.

William Edwards in 1722 left money to endow a Free School.<sup>17</sup> In 1830, besides the Free School, there were a Charity School, a 'school of Industry', and five private schools, of which four were for 'ladies'.<sup>18</sup> The National School on Rosemary Hill bears an inscription that it was erected by voluntary contributions in 1836. It is now used for the County Library. An Independent School is mentioned in 1850 as having been endowed by Abraham Arlidge for the education and clothing of thirty-six boys and thirty-six girls.<sup>19</sup> The building stands behind the Congregational Chapel on Abbey Hill. In the eighties of last century the Baptists had a day school in connexion with Albion Chapel. The Roman Catholic Schools were built about the same time as the Catholic Church in 1841, near which they stand.

Nonconformity was well represented here and in 1850 there were Wesleyan Methodists, Baptists, Independents, and Unitarians. There were also the Roman Catholics.<sup>20</sup> The Wesleyan Chapel in Warwick Road was erected in 1844<sup>21</sup> in the Grecian style, and after the new Wesleyan Chapel was built in Priory Road in 1903 it was used as St. John's Parish Room, and is now the Christadelphian Lecture Hall. The present Baptist Church, a brick building in Albion Street, was in 1850 standing closed for want of funds.<sup>22</sup> The Independents, who had long been established here, had their chapel on Abbey Hill, and the present Abbey Hill Congregational Church was built in 1873. The Unitarian Chapel in the perpendicular style, on Rosemary Hill, is now used by an amateur dramatic society and called the 'Priory Theatre'. The Roman Catholic Chapel situated at the end of Fieldgate Lane was designed by Pugin and erected in 1841 at the sole cost of Mrs. Amherst. In 1883 the 'Iron Room near the Washbrook' was occupied by the Brethren. This building, which stands in The Close, is now used by the Free Brethren.

Besides the park formed by Geoffrey de Clinton there was the Chase, on the west of the parish, and the 'foreign wood'<sup>23</sup> known as Kingswood or the Frythe on the east extending down to Thickthorn.<sup>24</sup> A certain amount of assarting was going on in the 12th century, and a charter of Henry de Clinton refers to land 'on Dedecherleshull and all the moor from the bridge of Wridefen beside the road to Coleshill as far as the assart of Ernald Halfcherl of Wridefen'.<sup>25</sup> In 1250 the constable of Kenilworth was ordered to clear both sides of the road from Coventry to Warwick of the woods in which robbers lurked.<sup>26</sup> In the survey of c. 1540 Kenilworth was said to lie in country 'very pleasant for hunting all manner of game and of fallow deer in eight parks lying together' near the castle.<sup>27</sup> Of these parks two were in Rudfen, one being the Ducks Park (40 acres) newly imparked by Abbot Ralph about 1488;<sup>28</sup> the other (30 acres), called in 1581 the Little Park, near Rudfen House,<sup>29</sup> was in 1649 in the occupation of Robert Briscoe<sup>30</sup> and was still known as Briscoe's Park in 1785.<sup>31</sup> When the king seized Robert Dudley's estates in 1609 there were reckoned to be in Kenilworth 14,138 timber trees and 5,041 'firewood' trees, with a further 8,807 timber trees and 7,580 others in Rudfen, the total value being £14,625.<sup>32</sup> During the Commonwealth the deer were destroyed and great quantities of timber were cut, so that in 1660 Sir Charles Berkeley petitioned for a lease of 800 acres of disforested lands in Kenilworth.<sup>33</sup>

There were a number of commons, that of Rudfen being at Burton Green, and the chief of those belonging to the Abbey manor being Great and Little Adibarne, on the east side of the parish.<sup>34</sup> Some 1,100 acres of common land were inclosed in 1755.<sup>35</sup>

Kenilworth was originally part *THE CASTLE*<sup>36</sup> of the royal manor of Stoneleigh and was given by Henry I to Geoffrey de Clinton, his chamberlain, who when he founded the Priory of Kenilworth gave to the canons

<sup>16</sup> Dugd. 254. <sup>17</sup> *V.C.H. Warwick*, ii, 373.

<sup>18</sup> West, *Directory of Warwick*, 607-9.

<sup>19</sup> Lascelles, *Directory of Coventry*, 1850.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>21</sup> White's *Directory of Warwick*, 1874.

<sup>22</sup> Lascelles, loc. cit.

<sup>23</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* iii, 288.

<sup>24</sup> Land Rev. Misc. Bks. vol. 185.

<sup>25</sup> Harl. MS. 3650, fol. 61v.

<sup>26</sup> *Cal. Close*, 1247-51, p. 286.

<sup>27</sup> Rentals and Surveys (P.R.O.), portf.

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>29</sup> Leadam, *Domesday of Inl.* 450.

<sup>30</sup> Land Rev. Misc. Bks. vol. 185.

<sup>31</sup> *Warw. Co. Recs.* ii, 222.

<sup>32</sup> Feet of F. Div. Cos. Trin. 25 Geo. III.

<sup>33</sup> S.P. Dom. Jas. I, xlviii, 26.

<sup>34</sup> *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1660-1, p. 317.

<sup>35</sup> Land Rev. Misc. Bks. vol. 185.

<sup>36</sup> Slater, *Engl. Peasantry and Enclosure*, 302.

<sup>37</sup> See the Ministry of Works official Guide; also J. H. Harvey, 'Side-Lights on Kenilworth Castle' (*Arch. J.* ci, 91-107).



all his land there except so much as he required to make his castle and park.<sup>36a</sup> The position which he selected for his castle was a slight rise, protected on the south and west by small streams; by damming these streams just east of their junction, he, or his son and successor Geoffrey, created the Mere, or Great Pool,  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile long and, in places, 500 ft. wide, which defended the castle on the south and west, and supplied the moat on the other two sides. The early castle consisted of a great keep, some 80 ft. (external measure) from east to west by 60 ft. from north to south, with a projecting square turret at each angle.<sup>37</sup> The walls are 20 ft. thick, battering to 14 ft. 6 in. at a height of 10 ft., up to which height the whole was filled in solid with earth. Entrance to the first floor was through an outbuilding on the west (remodelled by the Earl of Leicester in 1570). The keep stood at the north-east angle of the bailey, or inner court, against the walls of which were built the kitchen and other domestic offices. Its military importance led Henry II to take it over during the rebellion of his son 'the Young King Henry' in 1173-4, when provisions and military forces, including at least 20 hired troopers and 140 foot, were placed in the castle.<sup>38</sup> Some arrangement seems to have been made, perhaps in 1182,<sup>39</sup> by which Henry de Clinton made over the castle to the king in exchange for the manor of Lower Swanbourne (Bucks.).<sup>40</sup> It was one of the castles repaired and set in order at the beginning of the reign of Richard I,<sup>41</sup> but it was under John that the old castle was surrounded by an outer curtain wall with towers. King John spent £2,000 on the work, but he seems to have visited the castle on only five occasions, and then for not more than three days at a time.<sup>42</sup> It was one of the four castles which were to be put in the hands of the barons as security for the observance of the Great Charter, but the king seems to have kept control of it.<sup>43</sup> Henry III rarely visited Kenilworth and the castle fell into disrepair, so that in 1241 the porch of the keep had fallen down, the great chamber was roofless, part of the outer wall was threatening to fall into the Mere, and repairs were needed to the jail, two gates, the chapel, and the other chapel in the keep.<sup>44</sup> In 1244 Henry appointed his brother-in-law Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester, warden of the castle,<sup>45</sup> and in 1253 he granted the custody of the castle to Simon and the Countess Eleanor for their lives.<sup>46</sup> It was probably at this time that the earthwork now known as 'the Brays', but more correctly 'the Bayes' (from its being built at the end of the bays, or dam, of the pool), was constructed to guard the main southern entrance. After the collapse of the baronial party and the death of Earl Simon at Evesham in 1265, Kenilworth defied the king's efforts to capture it until famine compelled the garrison to surrender in December 1266,<sup>47</sup> the vanquished being allowed to compound for the recovery of their estates under the Decree (*Dictum*) of Kenilworth.

The king at once granted the castle to his son Edmund,<sup>48</sup> whom he created Earl of Lancaster. Edmund in 1279 held a famous concourse here, called 'the Round Table', consisting of 100 knights, who engaged in tilting and martial exploits under the presidency of Roger Mortimer, and 100 ladies.<sup>49</sup> The jousting place was, no doubt, the later 'Tilt Yard' on top of the dam separating the Mere from the Lower Pool, and it was probably in memory of this tourney that the gateway tower leading on to the Yard was given the name of Mortimer's Tower.<sup>50</sup> On Edmund's death in 1296 he was succeeded by his son Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, who in 1313 began to build a chapel within the castle,<sup>51</sup> which he intended to convert into a great chantry or collegiate church of St. Mary, to be served by thirteen secular canons.<sup>52</sup> This seems to have been more or less completed by 1318,<sup>53</sup> but the chantry was never founded. The remains of the building may well be those in the Outer Wards, near 'Leicester's Barn', now ascribed to John of Gaunt. By this time Earl Thomas was leading the opposition to Edward II, which culminated in his open rebellion in 1322, when the sheriff was ordered to prevent anyone entering the castle, which was held against the king.<sup>54</sup> Later in that year the earl was attainted and beheaded, and the castle was taken into the king's hands. Here Edward II kept Christmas in 1323, and hither he was brought as a prisoner by Henry, the earl's brother, on 22 November 1326, and here he was compelled to acquiesce in his deposition,<sup>55</sup> being later removed to Berkeley Castle, where he was murdered. The estates of his brother, including Kenilworth, were restored to Earl Henry, whose son Henry, later created Duke of Lancaster, in 1347 spent 250 marks on the great hall of the castle.<sup>56</sup> He died seized thereof in 1361,<sup>57</sup> and the castle passed by the marriage of his daughter Blanche to John of Gaunt, fourth son of Edward III, who was created Duke of Lancaster.

Under the wealthy and ostentatious John of Gaunt the castle was first put into repair and then, from 1391 onwards, converted from a feudal stronghold into a palace. To this period belongs the Great Hall,<sup>57a</sup> occupying the whole of the west side of the inner court. The Hall itself was on the first floor, with vaulted cellars below, and had a timber roof of the exceptional span of 45 ft. At the north end was the screens passage, approached by a flight of stairs from the court, and beyond it was the 'Strong Tower', which served as a treasury; at the south was the so-called 'Saintowe Tower',<sup>57b</sup> containing the oriel of the Great Hall and giving access to the state apartments which occupy the south side of the court. On the death of John of Gaunt his estates devolved to his son Henry, who seized the throne as Henry IV, whereby the Duchy of Lancaster, including Kenilworth, became attached to the Crown. Beyond necessary repairs little was done to the castle,

<sup>36a</sup> Harl. MS. 3650, fol. 2, 3v.

<sup>37</sup> One of these turrets on the south was later the 'Evidency Tower', or muniment room. Harvey, loc. cit. 102.

<sup>38</sup> *Pipe R. Soc.* xix, 178; xxi, 139, 140.

<sup>39</sup> *Ibid.* xxxi, 118.

<sup>40</sup> *Bk. of Feet.* 878.

<sup>41</sup> *Pipe R. Soc.* n.s. i, 37, 44.

<sup>42</sup> 'Itinerary', prefixed to *Cal. Pat.* (Rec. Com.), i.

<sup>43</sup> *I.C.H. Warw.* ii, 426.

<sup>44</sup> *Cal. Lib. R.* 1240-5, pp. 33, 71.

<sup>45</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1232-47, p. 419.

<sup>46</sup> *Ibid.* 1247-58, p. 250.

<sup>47</sup> *I.C.H. Warw.* ii, 429-30.

<sup>48</sup> *Cal. Chart. R.* ii, 66.

<sup>49</sup> *Dugd.* 247.

<sup>50</sup> This name seems to be the 17th century (*Dugd.* 243) to have replaced the form 'Coltoure' in use in the 15th century (Harvey, loc. cit. 98).

<sup>51</sup> *Ibid.* 95 n.

<sup>52</sup> *Cal. Papal Letters*, ii, 184.

<sup>53</sup> *Ibid.*; *Cal. Close*, 1318-23, p. 586.

<sup>54</sup> *Ibid.* 519.

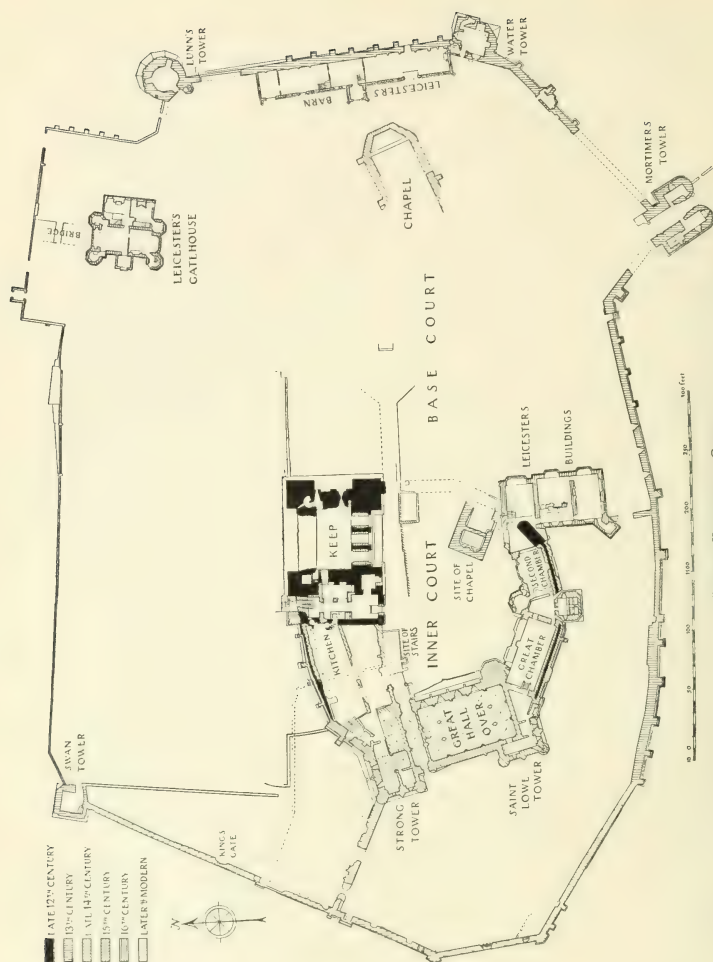
<sup>55</sup> *I.C.H. Warw.* ii, 434-5.

<sup>56</sup> Harvey, loc. cit. 95.

<sup>57</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* xi, 93.

<sup>57a</sup> It is probable that the walls are those of the hall built in 1347, as the contract for the roof of this (Duchy of Lanc. Misc. Bks. 11, fol. 52v) shows that the dimensions (89 ft. by 45 ft.) were identical with those of the existing hall. The mouldings and details of the windows can hardly be earlier than 1361, and the splendid stairway and porch must be of that period.

<sup>57b</sup> No authority is known for this name, which appears in Oakley's *Guide* (1874). It has been misread and printed in the official *Guide* and plan as 'Saintowe'.



PLAN OF KENILWORTH CASTLE  
(Based, by permission, on a survey made for the Ministry of Works)

but Henry V built a pleasure-house, known as 'the Pleasaunce in the Marsh (*en Mareys*)', on the other side of the Mere, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile west of the castle. The latter was still a fortress of importance and at the outbreak of the Wars of the Roses, in 1456, Henry VI sent some 30 cannon, and other stores, for its defence.<sup>58</sup> Henry VIII dismantled the Pleasaunce and used its material for buildings in the north-west angle of the outer court, near the Swan Tower,<sup>59</sup> possibly the 'large gret howse newly byldyd of tymber and tyelled wherin ys xij chaubers above and below wyth chymneys and large wyndowes', as described in a survey of c. 1540,<sup>60</sup> which also mentions a range on the (east) side of the inner court 'of tymber parte newly bylded'.

John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland, obtained a grant of Kenilworth in 1553, but on his attainder in the autumn of that year it reverted to the Crown. In 1563 Queen Elizabeth included it in a lavish grant of estates to her favourite Robert Dudley, the Duke's son,<sup>61</sup> whom she created Earl of Leicester in the following year. By 1570 Leicester had begun extensive alterations and additions to bring the castle into accord with the fashion of the time. Even in the Keep large mullioned and transomed windows were introduced, and the western fore-building was entirely remodelled, leading out to pleasure gardens. 'Mortimer's Tower' was also much altered and ceased to be the main entrance, a new Gatehouse being built at the north-east corner of the outer court. The chief addition was the block, of which the shell still stands, known as 'Leicester's Buildings', south of, and in line with, the timber-framed range built by Henry VIII. John of Gaunt's state apartments were renovated, and on the west side of his Hall a great platform of earth was thrown up to give a view over the Mere, probably for the benefit of Queen Elizabeth on the occasion of her famous visit in July 1575, when she was entertained with a lavish prodigality of feasting and pageantry.<sup>62</sup>

Leicester's Gatehouse was converted in 1650 into a residence by Colonel Hawkesworth, who blocked the entrance passage with bay windows and made other alterations, including additions on the east side, largely with materials from Leicester's Buildings, including the porch and probably some of the doorways and chimney-pieces. It is built of red sandstone ashlar, rectangular in plan with octagonal turrets at each angle and a continuous moulded plinth. The main block is three stories high, with a semi-basement, and the turrets one story higher. The main block has a battlemented parapet with a moulded string at its base continued round the turrets. The turrets have plain parapets on a moulded string-course. The windows are all square-headed with ovolo-moulded features. Blocking the original entrance archways are canted bay windows and above, slightly projecting, four-light windows to the first and second floors. The turrets have two-light windows on two faces. The north and south fronts are practically identical. In the centre of the west wall is a square porch having straight joints to the main wall. It has a semicircular-headed door flanked by niches, with a frieze bearing the initials R. L. and surmounted by a battlemented parapet, probably brought from Leicester's Buildings. The east wall is obscured by the

later additions, but traces of three-light windows are visible above the tiled roof on the north and south sides. In the south-west turret is a staircase giving access to all floors, the doorways having four-centred arches with square heads over. On the ground floor in the north-east turret there is a mutilated original fire-place with a moulded four-centred arch. The south room on the ground floor has a very elaborate alabaster chimney-piece with a flat head, frieze with a motto, and twin pilasters on either side decorated with tracery and the initials R. L., also said to have been taken from Leicester's Buildings. In the basement, formed when the gateways were blocked, the bases of the jambs of the original arches, with stopped chamfers, are visible, and a base for the jamb of an intermediate arch. The internal arrangements of the gatehouse have been almost entirely obliterated by the original conversion into a residence and by subsequent owners' and tenants' alterations. It is in the private occupation of Lt.-Col. the Hon. Cyril Davenport Siddeley, D.L.

Against the east wall of the outer court, between the round 'Lunn's Tower' and the square 'Water Tower', is the so-called 'Leicester's Barn', originally stables, and possibly later than Leicester's time. It is a long building, facing west, with a central gabled porch, the lower half red sandstone ashlar with a wide-played plinth, and its upper half timber-framed with ornamental reversed-ogee strutting and red brick infilling. The north wing has two square-headed two-light original windows, of two played orders, and a semicircular-headed doorway in the centre. The remaining door and windows are late insertions. The porch, about 12 ft. square, has angle buttresses and a semicircular-headed doorway of one splay, now blocked with modern brickwork, and a window. The south wing has been much altered and repaired; all the windows and the wide entrance are modern. Internally it measures 156 ft. by 21 ft.; it has been divided by modern partitions, and has a modern wood floor. The open timber roof, which is covered with tiles, has trusses consisting of a tie-beam and two collars, the tie-beam strutted with long struts from the sole-plate of the timber-framing. On the east side the roof is carried on open timber-framing resting on the inner edge of the wall-walk of the curtain wall. Modern brick piers and arches have been added to give additional support, and a modern brick fire-place inserted in the south wall.

When the castle reverted to the Crown in 1603<sup>63</sup> a survey was made which mentions 'the Roomes of great State within the same, and such as are able to receive his Maty. the Queen and Prince at one time, and with such stately Sellars all carried upon pillars and Architecture of free stone carved and wrought as the like are not within this Kingdome'.<sup>64</sup> As a fortress it was less satisfactory, and at the opening of the Civil War King Charles withdrew his garrison and the place was occupied by the parliamentarians.<sup>65</sup> In July 1649 orders were given to render the castle untenable, but not to damage the living quarters.<sup>66</sup> Accordingly the north wall of 'Caesar's Tower' (the Keep) was blown up and the outer walls breached in various places, and the Mere drained. Colonel Hawkesworth, to whom the site had been granted, established himself in Leicester's Gate-

<sup>58</sup> Devon, *Issues of Exch.* 481-2.

<sup>59</sup> Dugd. 249. The 'Swannesest' Tower is mentioned in 1440: Harvey, loc. cit.

<sup>60</sup> 101.

<sup>61</sup> Rentals and Surveys (P.R.O.), portf.

16, no. 22; printed by Harvey, loc. cit.

91-3.

<sup>62</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1560-3, p. 540.

<sup>63</sup> Dugd. 249; *The Primely Pleasures of Kenilworth Castle* (reprinted in *Kenilworth*

*Illustrated*); Tenison, *Elizabethan England*, iii, 1-12.

<sup>64</sup> See below, n. 91.

<sup>65</sup> Harvey, loc. cit. 106.

<sup>66</sup> *P.G.H. Warw.* ii, 449, 450.

<sup>67</sup> *Bern. Arch. Soc.* lxx, 33.

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

house. How far he was responsible for the ruin of the earlier living quarters, or how far neglect and later owners<sup>67</sup> are to blame, cannot be said. Leicester's Buildings were occupied by a colony of weavers from Coventry in the 18th century,<sup>68</sup> but by the beginning of the 19th century this part was unroofed and the castle was in its present state, except that it was untended. The final act in its history was its purchase in 1937 by Sir John Davenport Siddeley (created Baron Kenilworth in June 1937), who handed over the guardianship of the ruins to H.M. Office of Works, with a generous contribution towards the cost of their upkeep.

Before and after the Conquest **KENIL-MANORS WORTH** was a member of the royal manor of Stoneleigh.<sup>69</sup> It was assessed at 3 virgates and there was woodland half a league long by 4 furlongs broad. In 1086 it was held of the king by Richard the Forester. It was given by Henry I, c. 1120, to Geoffrey de Clinton, his Chamberlain and Treasurer, who gave the northern portion for the endowment of his newly founded priory and retained the southern for his castle, park,<sup>70</sup> and (according to the confirmation charter of King Stephen) 'borough (*burgum*)'.<sup>71</sup> The **CASTLE MANOR** descended with the castle itself, whose history is given above. Edmund of Lancaster in December 1266 had a grant of free warren and chase here,<sup>72</sup> and in 1268 was granted a weekly market on Tuesdays and a fair on the eve, feast, and morrow of Michaelmas.<sup>73</sup>

The estate of the priory in Kenilworth in 1291 included 2 virgates of demesne, valued at only 12s., assized rents of £4, two mills worth 6s. 8d., and stock to the value of £1.<sup>74</sup> At the time of its dissolution the site and demesnes of the abbey were valued at £7 6s. 8d., rents brought in some £43, and perquisites of courts £2 16s. 2d.<sup>75</sup> The site included 'the great orchard' (10 acres), the infirmary garden with an orchard and pond, the vineyard, and other land.<sup>76</sup> In 1564 the **ABBAY MANOR** was granted by Queen Elizabeth to the Earl of Leicester,<sup>77</sup> who already held the castle, with which it has since descended.<sup>78</sup>

**WRIDEFEN** or **RUDFEN**, now corrupted to Redfern, was the district in the north-west quarter of the parish, approximately bounded on the south by Redfern Lane and on the east by Red Lane. The younger Geoffrey de Clinton gave to Kenilworth Priory land late of William Palmer in Wridefen,<sup>79</sup> and his son Henry gave other land and woods 'from the spring whence the stream called Nuneseche flows as far as the cross which Robert French (*franciscus*) has set up as a

division between his wood and mine'.<sup>80</sup> By 1291 the priory had 4 virgates here worth £4, and stock valued at £2.<sup>81</sup> It was constituted a separate manor, which at the time of the Dissolution was farmed at £10.<sup>82</sup> In June 1545 the manor, including a number of coppices amounting to 215 acres of woodland, was granted to Thomas Marrow;<sup>83</sup> but in 1557 he reconveyed it to the Crown.<sup>84</sup> A lease for 21 years was made to John Throckmorton in 1558,<sup>85</sup> but in 1565 Queen Elizabeth granted the manor to the Earl of Leicester<sup>86</sup> and it followed the descent of the other two manors. In 1653, during the interregnum, William Combe was in possession of the manor,<sup>87</sup> but at the Restoration it returned to its former owners.

Leicester died in 1588, leaving his estates for life to his brother Ambrose, Earl of Warwick, who only survived him by a year, with reversion to Sir Robert Dudley, Leicester's son by Lady Douglass Sheffield.<sup>88</sup> Sir Robert claimed that his parents had been married and that he was legitimate<sup>89</sup> and entitled to the estates and also to the earldoms of Leicester and Warwick, as heir of his father and uncle. This claim was opposed by Leicester's widow, Lettice (formerly Countess of Essex, whom he had married during the life of Lady Douglass), and the Court of Star Chamber decided against Sir Robert. Sir Robert, who had married Alice daughter of Sir Thomas Leigh of Stoneleigh, disgusted at his failure to prove his legitimacy, went abroad. On his failing to obey a summons from the Privy Council to return to this country, the castle and all its lands were seized for the use of the king in 1603.<sup>90</sup> The survey then made states that the circuits of the castle, manors, parks, and chase lying round together contain at least 19 or 20 miles in a pleasant country, 'the like both for strength state and pleasure not being within the realm of England'. The castle within the walls is given as 7 acres and the pool 111 acres. The values are: in land £16,431 9s.; woods £11,722 2s.; the castle £10,401 4s.<sup>91</sup> In 1611 Prince Henry, eldest son of the king, agreed to pay Sir Robert £14,500 for the title to the estates; but only £3,000 of it was paid over, and this was embezzled by the agent to whom it was entrusted.<sup>92</sup> Under a special Act of Parliament Sir Robert's wife Alice conveyed the castle to Prince Charles, afterwards Charles I, for £4,000,<sup>93</sup> who in



DUDLEY, Earl of Leicester. Or a lion vert with a forked tail.

<sup>67</sup> In 1842 the Rev. Mr. Villiers had the tracery in two windows of the Hall knocked out to make the ruin more picturesque: Harvey, loc. cit. 107.

<sup>68</sup> Official Guide.

<sup>69</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* i, 302. 'Optone', grouped with it as a member of Stoneleigh and identified by Dugdale with the 'High Town' of Kenilworth, was probably Leek Wootton: see below, p. 167.

<sup>70</sup> Harl. MS. 3650, fol. 2, 3 v.

<sup>71</sup> Ibid. fol. 73.

<sup>72</sup> *Cal. Chart. R. ii*, 67.

<sup>73</sup> Ibid. 112.

<sup>74</sup> *Tax. Eccl. (Rec. Com.)*, 254.

<sup>75</sup> *Mon. Angl. vi*, 225; *Land Rev. Misc. Bks.* vol. 181, fol. 53.

<sup>76</sup> *Aug. Off. Misc. Bks.* vol. 400, fol. 118.

<sup>77</sup> *Pat. R. 6 Eliz.* pt. 12.

<sup>78</sup> In 1581 each manor had a court leet and assize of bread, beer, and ale. The

former manor in Castle End had 43 free tenants with 47 holdings, and 11 customary tenants with 12 holdings. A fair was held each year at Michaelmas. In the Abbey manor there were 5 free tenants with 6 holdings, 29 customary tenants with 31 holdings, and 1 tenant at will; a fair was held in the High Town at Midsummer even, Midsummer day, and the day after, where horses and cattle were sold. No toll was taken for anything but horses; pedlars, &c., paid 9d. a year stallage. There was a market every Wednesday in the High Town which was then little used and only a small quantity of corn was sold: *Land Rev. Misc. Bks.* vol. 185, fols. 28-51.

<sup>79</sup> Harl. MS. 3650, fol. 6 v.

<sup>80</sup> Ibid. fol. 8, 9, 59 v.

<sup>81</sup> *Tax. Eccl. (Rec. Com.)*, 254.

<sup>82</sup> *Mon. Angl. vi*, 225.

<sup>83</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xx (1), 1081 (47).

<sup>84</sup> Feet of F. Warw. East. 3 and 4 Ph.

and Mary; *Cal. Pat.* 1555-7, p. 540.

<sup>85</sup> Ibid. 1557-8, p. 420.

<sup>86</sup> *Pat. R.* 7 Eliz. pt. 9.

<sup>87</sup> Feet of F. Warw. East. 1653; East.

1654; Trin. 1654.

<sup>88</sup> Dugd. 250.

<sup>89</sup> Dugdale, who quotes the testimony of Robert's witnesses from the Star Chamber records, clearly considered his legitimacy proved. For the contrary view see G. E. C., *Complete Peerage* (2nd ed.), vii, 550, n.d.

<sup>90</sup> Dugd. 250-1. Sir Robert later assumed the title of Duke of Northumberland. His son Charles, 'Duke Dudley', in 1670 wrote to Charles II demanding the return of the Kenilworth estates, on the reasonable ground that the price agreed upon for their sale had never been paid: *Hist. MSS. Com. Var. ii*, 142.

<sup>91</sup> *Cott. MS. Vesp. F. ix*, fol. 302.

<sup>92</sup> Dugd. 251.

<sup>93</sup> Private Acts, 21 Jas. I, c. 12.





KENILWORTH CASTLE, FROM THE WEST

*Copyright "Lansdowne, New Castle"*



KENILWORTH CASTLE: THE GATEHOUSE



KENILWORTH CASTLE, FROM THE AIR

*Copyright "Country Life"; photo. by Aerofilm*



KENILWORTH CHURCH

1623-4 granted a lease of it to Robert, Baron Carey (afterwards Earl of Monmouth), with remainder to Henry, Lord Carey, and Thomas Carey, his sons, for their lives.<sup>94</sup> Robert died in 1641 and it passed to his son Henry, 2nd Earl of Monmouth.<sup>95</sup> In 1650 Parliament ordered the castle to be made untenable and assigned the estates in 1651 to certain of Cromwell's officers and troops by way of satisfaction for good service and arrears of pay; but as the life-interest was still vested in Henry, Earl of Monmouth, this was purchased by Major Joseph Hawkesworth, one of the officers (then governor of Warwick Castle), for £2,000. In consideration of this sum he received the castle and land on which it stood, with the tilyard and orchard. The remainder of the estates was divided among certain of the officers after raising sufficient money to pay the troops. The park was destroyed, the lake drained, and the land divided up among them.<sup>96</sup> In 1655 Anne Holborne, widow, and Richard Leveson, K.G., and Katherine, his wife, the daughters of Sir Robert Dudley, were dealing with the castle and manor,<sup>97</sup> presumably remitting any existing claims.

At the Restoration the Crown renewed the lease to the daughters of Henry, late Earl of Monmouth, Elizabeth, Mary, and Martha Carey,<sup>98</sup> but in 1665 the Crown granted the castle and manors to Laurence Hyde,<sup>99</sup> later created Earl of Rochester, son of the 1st Earl of Clarendon, the statesman and historian. At his death the estate went to his son Henry, 4th Earl of Clarendon and Earl of Rochester,<sup>1</sup> who died in 1753 leaving no heir, when all his honours became extinct. It then went to the Hon. Thomas Villiers,<sup>2</sup> later 1st Earl of Clarendon of the second creation, who had married Charlotte, granddaughter of the last-named lord, and

the south arcade was added about the end of the 14th century; the south chapel, vestry, and south transept are modern. The church is built of red sandstone ashlar of uniform colour; all the roofs are covered with small green slates. On the north side there is a good example of a lead rain-water-head, dated WB 1701, from the gutter of the nave roof.

The nave has a clearstory with six two-light and one single-light windows on each side, the single lights being at the western end. When the south aisle was formed the design and detail of the north side were followed. They are cinquefoil lights with square heads dating from early in the 15th century, surmounted by a plain parapet which rises from a coved string-course. The north aisle is lighted by three square-headed windows of three trefoiled lights with tracery composed of small circles. There are four buttresses, opposite the arcade pillars; they are small, in two stages with wide splayed bases, and terminate as stops to the coved eaves-course. The western end is occupied by a north porch with an angle buttress of the same design as in the aisle. The entrance doorway has a four-centred arch of three sunk splayed orders continued down the jambs to splayed stops. It has a moulded label with return ends. Centrally over the door is a quatrefoil light in a square splayed opening. On the west side is a similar doorway, blocked with masonry, and above this is a traceried window of two trefoil lights with a pointed arch. There are two loop-lights to the turret stair, the lower one blocked with masonry.

The tower, with angle buttresses, rises in three stages, the second stage diminished by an offset and the third also, and from this point receding with deep corner splay from a square to an octagon surmounted by an octagonal spire, reduced before tapering upwards by a slightly curved splay. On each corner at its base is the figure of an angel holding a shield. The spire, which terminates in a vane representing a cock, is divided into three by two bands of billets. The ground-floor stage forms a west porch and the doorway, which is a later insertion, is an elaborate one of the late 12th century and probably came from the adjacent St. Mary's Abbey. It has a semicircular arch of three moulded orders with a label decorated with nail ornament. The outer order has a zigzag moulding, the inner a bead with birds' beaks, and the lower is fluted. This lower order is continued down the jambs and the upper two are supported on detached round shafts with scalloped capitals; no bases are visible above ground. The whole is set within a square framework of cable moulding and a band of diaper work, the spandrels being filled in with large circular paterae. Above is a modern two-light traceried window, with a pointed arch, which lights the porch. Above the first offset there are small trefoil lights with pointed arches on the north, south, and west sides, and below them are the clock faces. On the cardinal sides of the belfry there are two-light trefoil tracery windows with hood-mouldings having returned ends. Near the base of the spire small rectangular lights have been cut through the masonry. Above the first band of billets are canopied spire lights with trefoil heads on the cardinal faces. On the east wall are the lines of a very steeply pitched roof reaching to the apex of the belfry window.

The south aisle has four buttresses similar to the



CAREY, Earl of Monmouth. *Argent on a bend sable three roses argent.*



HYDE, Earl of Clarendon. *Aure a chevron between three lozenges or.*



VILLIERS, Earl of Clarendon. *Argent a cross gules with five scallops or thereon.*

in 1785 it passed to Thomas, 2nd Earl of Clarendon,<sup>3</sup> and descended with the earldom to George Herbert Hyde, the 6th and present Earl. It was purchased in 1937 by Sir John Davenport Siddeley, C.B.E., 1st Baron Kenilworth, the present lord.

The church of *ST. NICHOLAS* is *CHURCH* situated on the north side of the ruins of St. Mary's Abbey and overlooking a valley which divides the town into two parts. The church consists of chancel, nave, north and south aisles, south chapel, south transept, north porch, vestry, and west tower. It dates from the middle of the 14th century;

<sup>94</sup> *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* v, 64.

<sup>95</sup> *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1641, pp. 155-6.

<sup>96</sup> *Birm. Arch. Soc. liv*, 35.

<sup>97</sup> *Recov. R. Mich.* 1655, ro. 54.

<sup>98</sup> *Pat. R.* 13 Chas. II, pt. 14, no. 1.

<sup>99</sup> *Ibid.* 17 Chas. II, pt. 5, no. 24.

<sup>1</sup> *Gamekeepers' Deputations* (1723).

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* (1723).

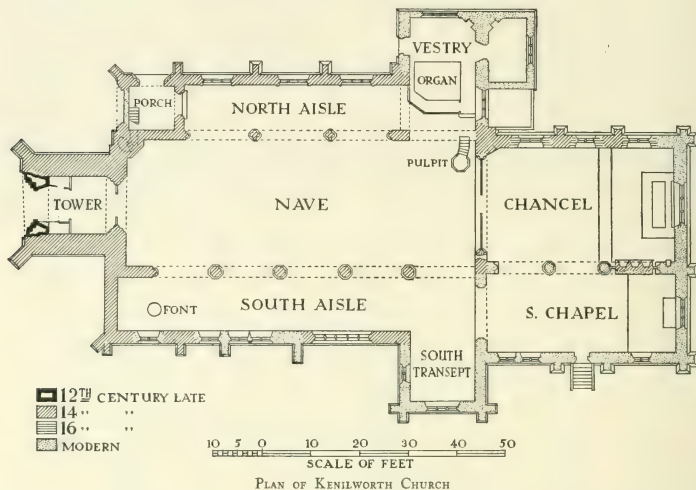
<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.* (1785).

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

north side and an angle buttress at the south-west corner. The south wall is lighted by four modern two-light trefoil-traceried windows, and farther east by a large five-light traceried window contemporary with the arcade. At the eastern end is a narrow blocked opening with splayed head and jambs 2 ft. high by 6 in. wide, 3 ft. above ground level, and at the western end is a very narrow blocked vertical two-light opening with splayed head, jambs, and transom; each light is 1 ft. 7 in. high by 2½ in. wide. In the west wall there are three blocked openings at different levels with splayed heads, jambs, and sills, probably to light a vestry with a room above.

the east end of the north aisle is built of red sandstone with a slated roof and has its entrance in the west wall. It is lighted by three-light trefoil windows on the north and east sides.

The interior of the church is not imposing; the walls are plastered and much of the work is modern and of poor design. The chancel (38 ft. by 23 ft.) was drastically altered in 1864, when the flat ceiling was removed, the chancel lengthened, a pitched roof erected, south chapel, north and south transepts added, and a new chancel arch inserted. It has a floor of glazed tiles laid in 1879, with one step from the nave, two to the altar rails, and one to the altar. On the south side is the



The modern south transept of red sandstone carries on the coved eaves-course and plinth of the south aisle, with angle buttresses, and has a slated roof of a somewhat steeper pitch than the aisle roof. It is lighted by a two-light traceried window with a pointed arch on the west, and by a three-light window with a hood-moulding in the south gable wall.

The south chapel, built at the same time, is similar in detail. It has two buttresses and an angle buttress, and is entered by a door in the centre with a pointed arch of two orders, the mouldings continuing to a splayed stop. In the east wall there is a three-light window with a pointed arch and hood-moulding. The east wall of the chancel, with two buttresses, is modern (1864) and the three-light window was inserted in 1867. The north wall has coved eaves-course and parapet similar to the nave, but at a lower level. There are three equally spaced two-light trefoil-traceried windows with hood-mouldings continued as a string-course, dating from the 16th century.

In the east wall of the north aisle there is a three-light window of poor workmanship, probably of the early 19th century. A modern vestry projecting from

modern arcade of three moulded, pointed arches constructed of alternate courses of red and yellow sandstone, the arches being supported on octagonal pillars with foliated capitals and moulded bases. Built into the east bay about 1920 and facing the chancel are sedilia, which had been ejected from the church, probably in 1864. They are of late-14th-century work of rather crude design with three seats on one level, having ogee trefoil heads which die into a sunk splay. The sides and divisions are splayed, making the seats narrower at the back, and the divisions have slightly chamfered arrises. A modern elaborately moulded capping has been added. To the east of the sedilia there is a modern piscina with a cinquefoil ogee head, and crocketed label terminating in a poppy head and resting on bosses of male and female heads. The modern chancel arch has two splayed orders, with its floriated capitals cut away for the insertion of a carved oak screen in 1913. In the north-west corner there is a wide splay with evidence of a blocked doorway which probably gave access to a rood-loft. Just south of the chancel arch is a rectangular opening 1 ft. high by 8 in. wide, and 3 ft. above the floor, with splayed reveals on the chancel side and with chamfered



head, jambs, and sill to the nave. The windows have splayed reveals and the internal arches follow the external. The altar table is a modern one constructed of oak, as are the altar rails. The modern roof consists of curved trusses supported on traceried brackets resting on moulded stone corbels and matchboarded on the backs of the rafters.

The nave (71 ft. 6 in. by 26 ft. 2 in.) has an arcade on the north side of four bays with pointed arches of two splayed orders supported on pillars with splays following the arches, with simple moulded capitals and bases of the mid 14th century. The eastern bay differs from the remainder, the arch being supported on inserted foliated capitals on modern short engaged trefoil shafts terminating on corbels, probably part of the alteration to form the north transept of 1864-5. This bay is now occupied by an organ and a passage to the vestry on the site of the 1864-5 north transept, of which little trace remains. The clearstory windows have flat heads, with slightly splayed reveals, the lintels chamfered on the lower edge. The aisle windows have square reveals and project beyond the wall-face, forming a splayed moulding supported on moulded corbels, the splay being carried up to mitre with a cornice having a corresponding splay at wall-plate level. The western end has a four-centred arch doorway from the north porch. In the north-west corner there is a splayed projection formed by the circular staircase to the tower. The tower arch is pointed, with three splayed orders which continue down the jambs and have no stops. The south arcade has five bays with arches of the same detail as the north, but supported on octagonal pillars with moulded capitals and bases typical of the beginning of the 15th century. The arch of the eastern bay, which leads into the modern south transept, is supported on modern corbels. None of the blocked openings mentioned on the exterior are visible under the wall plaster. The west bay is used as a baptistry. The font is circular, of light sandstone, and is dated 1614. The basin has a moulded rim with a running scallop at the top and bottom of the frieze, which has four small rosettes at intervals and the date. Around the tapering stem are eight small attached shafts resting on a plain circular drum moulded at the base. It has a modern carved oak cover. The nave and both aisles are paved with stone slabs, some of them inscribed.

The base of the tower forms a west porch (12 ft. by 12 ft.). Painted on the north and south walls is a list of charities. The ceiling is formed by the underside of a modern pitch pine floor to the ringing chamber, the beams and joists are stop-chamfered. Between the ringing chamber and the belfry a modern floor has been inserted to house the clock works; the clock is dated 1865.

The nave roof is a modern one of the king-post type with moulded tie-beams, tracery brackets resting on moulded stone corbels, and matchboarded between the trusses. Both the aisle roofs are of the same period, matchboarded between moulded purlins.

The north porch (9 ft. by 9 ft.) originally had an upper floor, which has been removed, leaving the doorway to the turret stair high up in the wall and now reached by a flight of wooden steps. The door to the north aisle has a four-centred arch with a rather deep moulded splay continuing down the jambs and is without stops. The doorway to the turret stair has a four-

centred arch without mouldings, but is rebated for a door, now missing. The turret stair has been blocked at the level of the belfry, and below this point a passage has been roughly hacked through the thickness of the tower and turret walls to give access to the ringing chamber. The belfry is now reached by a ladder from the ringing chamber. The blocked opening on the west side is not visible on the inside.

The south transept (14 ft. 6 in. by 13 ft. 4 in.) has no features, the walls are plastered and the floor is of stone slabs. It has a roof similar to that of the south chapel.

The south chapel has one step from the transept and one to the altar. The walls are plastered and the floor is of wood block. The open roof is of pitch pine with curved braces and a circular collar-beam, slightly moulded.

The pulpit is of carved oak, dated 1911, and is placed on the north side of the chancel arch. The lectern is also of carved oak of about the same date and is placed on the south side of the chancel arch.

In the chancel is a large elm chest bound with plain iron bands and straps, probably of the early 17th century, and fitted with three drawers on each side, added in the 18th century, all locked with a single clasp. All the original locks are missing.

Against the step to the chancel is placed a large boat-shaped lead casting, 4 ft. 4 in. long by 1 ft. 3 in. wide, dug up in the churchyard in 1888.<sup>32</sup>

All the seating is modern varnished pitch pine put in in 1864-5, and the stained glass is all of 19th-century work. There are a number of mural tablets and memorials of little artistic merit, and none earlier than the 18th century.

In the churchwardens' accounts is a faculty from the Bishop of Lichfield for the erection of a gallery in the north aisle which was built in 1751, and another faculty for a gallery in the south aisle erected in 1760 (a late 18th-century print shows a row of dormer windows in the aisle roof, no doubt to light the gallery). Both these galleries were removed about 1850. In 1766 an agreement was made for reroofing the church, and in 1767 £335 4s. was paid in cash and timber for the new roof. In 1693 an agreement was made with Charles Hewitt, a goldsmith of Coventry, for a new clock for the sum of £5 and the old clock. In 1700 repairs were made to the dial in the churchyard, and there still stands opposite the west door a stone column on two steps, with the matrix of a sundial on its cap.

The communion plate is of exceptional interest: it includes a silver-gilt cup of 1568, its cover having a ring handle, engraved with the bear and ragged staff, the badge of the Earl of Leicester. There is another large plain cup, of 1626, given by Elizabeth, Countess of Monmouth; but the chief feature is the remarkable set of silver-gilt plate given by Alice, Duchess Dudley. This, made in 1638, comprises a chalice of medieval form, a paten, a flagon engraved and embossed with floral patterns, and a ciborium in the form of a tazza with cover.<sup>4</sup>

There are six bells,<sup>5</sup> five recast by J. Taylor & Co. of Loughborough in 1875; the other is the sole survivor of five cast at Coventry by Brian Eldridge in 1656. The great bell described by Dugdale<sup>6</sup> as brought from the Abbey and bearing the name of Prior Thomas Kidderminster [1403-36] was recast in 1734 by either

<sup>32</sup> Described and figured in *Birm. Arch.* Soc. xlvii, 93, pl. xix.

<sup>4</sup> W. A. Seaby, *Church Plate from the Midlands*, nos. 32, 58, 64, pl. iii.

<sup>5</sup> Tilley and Walters, *Church Bells of Warwick*, 170-8.

<sup>6</sup> Dugdale, 241, 252.

## A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

Abraham Rudhall or Thomas Eayre, and again in 1875.

The registers begin in 1630.

Kenilworth was originally part of *ADPOWSON* Stoneleigh and as the latter church was from an early date appropriated to Kenilworth Priory no difficulties would have arisen when the canons built a church here. It is probable that for a century or more after the establishment of the priory the inhabitants of the neighbourhood used the nave of the monastic church, and that a separate parish church was not built until the middle of the 13th century. A casual reference to a 'rector' of Kenilworth in 1285<sup>7</sup> is rather puzzling; but in 1291 the church is definitely returned as appropriated to the priory and worth £5 6s. 8d.<sup>8</sup> In 1535 the rectory was farmed for £7 6s. 8d. and the canons were paying £6 13s. 4d. yearly to the vicar.<sup>9</sup> After the Dissolution the rectory was included in the various leases and grants of the manor, but the advowson of the vicarage was retained by the Crown and the Lord Chancellor is still the patron.

A benefaction table in the church of *CHARITIES* this parish records that the following gave sums of money, the interest on which was to be distributed in bread: Thomas Councill (£10); Francis Power (£10); Thomas Johnson (£10); Thomas Cook (£5); Joseph Tyrer (£6); Thomas Sutton (£6); William Brooks (£5).

Thomas, Earl of Clarendon, by will dated 5 May 1810 gave £100 to the rector or vicar and churchwardens of Kenilworth, the interest to be applied for the use of the poor of the parish.

George Denton by will dated 10 May 1644 gave a messuage in Kenilworth in trust, the rents and profits thereof to be applied towards the relief of the poor. He desired that the three tenants of the messuage should each enjoy their several parts and rooms during their lives at the yearly rent of 6s. 8d. each, they keeping their several parts in good repair.

Mary Dolphin by will dated 8 June 1834 gave £200, the interest to be given to aged parishioners at Christmas in warm clothing, coal, money, or meat.

Alice, Duchess Dudley. For particulars of this charity see under parish of Ashow. The share of the charity applicable for this parish is two-seventeenths of the income amounting to £75 6s. 6d. annually to be applied for the general benefit of the poor of the parish.

Ann Fox. A memorandum in an old churchwardens' book of this parish, dated 16 February 1724-5, states that Ann Fox by her will charged certain land at Kenilworth with the annual sum of 20s. towards putting a parish boy apprentice, according to the discretion of the minister and churchwardens.

Edward Simpson by will dated 5 May 1848 gave certain residuary personal estate to his executors to convert into money and to invest the same and, subject to certain life interests, to transfer one moiety to the vicar and churchwardens of Kenilworth to pay the interest towards the education and partial clothing of children of poor inhabitants of the parish, being members of the Established Church, provided that if the annual interest should exceed £30 the surplus up to £10 should be annually expended in fuel, clothing, or money among such poor and aged inhabitants being members of the Established Church.

By an Order dated 4 May 1906 the Charity Com-

missioners determined that the sum of £1,200 Consols, part of the sum of £1,461 14s. 9d. Consols constituting the endowment of the charity, ought to be applied to solely educational purposes.

Mary Turner's Charity: 6s. 8d. is received each year for the benefit of the poor of this parish. For particulars of the charity see parish of Baginton.

Stephen Waite by will dated 15 September 1727 gave £100 to the minister and churchwardens of Kenilworth to be laid out in the purchase of land, the rent and profits to be applied in putting out a poor boy to be apprenticed to some trade. The land, which was purchased in 1729, has since been sold and the proceeds invested.

The above-mentioned charities are regulated by a Scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 19 June 1914 under the title of the United Charities. The scheme appoints a body of trustees to administer the charities and directs that the income of the charity of Alice, Duchess Dudley, shall be applied in accordance with the provisions of the scheme dated 13 June 1879, the income of the charities of Ann Fox and Stephen Waite shall be applied towards apprenticing deserving and necessitous children, and that the income of the remaining charities shall be applied for the general benefit of the poor. The annual income of the charities amounts to £140 (approximately).

Church Lands. It is recorded in the printed Report of the former Commissioners for Inquiring Concerning Charities, dated in 1827, that there are several parcels of land in the parish, the rents of which are applicable to the repairs of the church, but the origin of which is unknown. The charity is regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners, dated 19 June 1914, appointing the vicar and churchwardens of St. Nicholas to be trustees and the income of the charity to be applied towards the repair and insurance against fire of the fabric of the church. The annual income of the charity amounts to £87.

Ann Floyd. By an Indenture dated 1 August 1855 yearly rents issuing out of land in Birmingham amounting to £20 19s. 6½d. were settled upon trust to provide the following yearly payments, viz.:

Fund for expenses	£1 9 6
Fund for repair of School and School House at Burton Green so long as in the said School divine service shall weekly be performed	£4 0 0
Residue to provide a stipend for the Minister officiating there or otherwise for the spiritual benefit of the inhabitants of Burton Green.	

Alfred William Horden by will proved on 15 September 1938 gave £100 to the vicar and churchwardens of St. Nicholas, the interest, amounting to £3, to be applied for the upkeep of the churchyard.

William Daniel Shard by will dated 27 January 1934 gave £100 to the Parochial Church Council of St. Nicholas Church, Kenilworth, the interest to be applied for the upkeep of the churchyard. The annual income amounts to £3 8s. 8d.

Arthur William Street by will dated 29 June 1934 made a similar bequest of £200. The annual income amounts to £6 17s. 4d.

Elizabeth Hannah Street by will dated 23 June 1937

<sup>7</sup> *Epis. Reg. Giffard* (Worce. Hist. Soc.), 262.

<sup>9</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 64; *ibid.* 65, 70.

<sup>8</sup> *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 241.

gave £100 to the Parochial Church Council, the income (£3) to be applied for the general purposes of the church.

Emily Henrietta Wilson by will dated 4 November 1924 gave £100 to the vicar and churchwardens of St. Nicholas, the income to be applied for the upkeep of the churchyard and the fabric of the parish church. She gave a further sum of £1,000 to them, the income to be applied in augmentation of the stipend of the vicar.

Harry Quick by will dated 23 January 1924 gave £100 to the vicar and churchwardens, the income to be paid in augmentation of the Assistant Clergy Fund of the parish. The annual income amounts to £3 6s. 4d.

Ethie Gilbert Dennison by a codicil to her will dated 29 May 1914 devised a cottage at Kenilworth upon trust to be let, rent free or at as low a rent as possible, to poor ladies or women. She also bequeathed £200, the interest to be applied towards the maintenance of the cottage. Trustees of the charity were appointed by an Order of the Charity Commissioners dated 13 January 1942.

William Edwards by will dated 29 January 1722 devised certain property in the county of Warwick for the establishment, among other purposes, of a fund for the distribution of clothing and Bibles to the poor of Kenilworth and Hatton. The charity was formerly regulated by a scheme of the High Court of Chancery dated 28 July 1818 under the title of *The Coat and Gown Charity of William Edwards*, but is now regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 15 June 1909. This appoints a body of local trustees to administer the share of the charity applicable for this parish (£60) and directs the trustees to pay yearly £6 to the vicar and churchwardens for the purchase of Bibles, Prayer Books, or Testaments for poor persons resident in the parish, and the balance of the income to be applied for eleemosynary purposes.

Harriett Anne Amherst by will dated 10 November 1883 gave £3,000 to the Roman Catholic Bishop or other person for the time being exercising episcopal jurisdiction over the Roman Catholics at Kenilworth, the interest to be applied for the benefit of the Roman Catholic Mission of St. Austin's at Fieldgate. The annual income of the charity amounts to £157.

Abraham Arlidge's Charity is regulated by a scheme made under the Endowed Schools Acts on 19 July 1883, as altered by schemes of the Charity Commissioners dated 25 November 1884, 4 August 1891, and 1 February 1901. The part of the endowment of the charity applicable for purposes not educational consists of £8 yearly payable to the Minister or Pastor for the time being of the Abbey Hill Congregational Chapel, and of a yearly sum of not more than £100 for the benefit of poor members of the congregation.

Kenilworth Convalescent Home. By an indenture dated 20 March 1886 Jane Woodcock conveyed to trustees a message in High Street then used, and to continue to be used, as a Convalescent Home. By a further indenture dated 3 June 1886 in consideration of £200 (which had been raised by subscription) two messages also in High Street were conveyed to the said trustees.

Harriett Faulconer Hamilton by will dated 13 March 1894 gave £150 to be invested, the income to be applied by the vicar and churchwardens of the district church of St. John the Evangelist in Kenilworth towards the repair and maintenance of the memorial window of her mother, and the window to be erected in memory of herself. Any surplus income to be applied towards the maintenance of the fabric of the church. The annual income of the charity amounts to £4 8s. 4d.

The Hon. and Rev. Charles Samuel Twisleton by will dated 4 February 1888 bequeathed £1,000 Consols, the interest to be paid to the vicar for the time being of St. John's, Kenilworth.

## LADBROKE<sup>1</sup>

Acreege: 1975.

Population: 1911, 162; 1921, 169; 1931, 164.

The western boundary of the parish is formed by the River Itchen, and the northern, for a short distance, by a small stream that joins that river after flowing through the grounds of Ladbroke Hall and then for a little over a mile in a north-westerly direction. Ladbroke Hall, with its well-timbered park and two large ponds, lies to the south of the village, which is mostly grouped round a road running north from Banbury to Southam and a smaller road leading westwards to Harbury, crossing the Itchen by Deppers (formerly Defford, or 'deep ford') bridge. The village spreads along both sides of the main road with a group of houses at the western end, of the 17th and 18th centuries, built both of stone and half-timber, mostly with thatched roofs. One on the west side of the road is part of a 16th-century building, with alternate courses of limestone and sandstone similar to the masonry employed in the construction of the church tower. A few timber-framed cottages remain among the 18th- and 19th-century houses built of red brick with tiled roofs which make up the bulk of the village buildings. From the

village, which lies at a height of 300 ft., the ground rises gently to the south and rather more rapidly to the east, where heights of over 400 ft. are reached at Lady Hill and Windmill Hill. Early in the 13th century Henry son of William Boscher gave to the monks of Combe Abbey land on Heidune for building a new mill, and a little later John de Ladbroke gave 3 acres 'below the mill', this being evidently a windmill.<sup>2</sup> Although a water-mill worth 3s. existed on Hugh de Grentemaisnil's estate in 1086,<sup>3</sup> the only later references to such a mill seem to be in about 1263<sup>4</sup> and in 1316, when William le Vynter of Coventry and Joan his wife conveyed a mill and 2 carucates of land in Ladbroke to John and Alice de Langeleye.<sup>5</sup>

Most of the parish appears to have been inclosed and divided up by the end of the 16th century, as shown by a detailed agreement about rights of pasture made in 1603 between Sir Robert Dudley, who had just bought the manor, and his freeholders.<sup>6</sup> The demesnes at this time amounted to 33 yardlands, or rather over 1,000 acres, while the 18 freeholders had 13 yardlands, of which Thomas Thornton had 5 (containing 200 acres) and a message, which was probably the

<sup>1</sup> A detailed history of the parish, entitled *Ladbroke and its Owners* (Bury St. Edmunds, 1914), was produced by S. H. A. Harvey. We are indebted to

Mr. J. A. C. Durham, F.S.A., for the loan of a copy.

<sup>2</sup> *Cott. MS. Vitell. A. I, fol. 135, 136.*

<sup>3</sup> *P.C.H. Harw. i, 326.*

<sup>4</sup> See below, n. 30.

<sup>5</sup> *Frat. of F.* (Dugd. Soc. x), 147c.

<sup>6</sup> Harvey, *op. cit.* 106-8.

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nucleus of the present Ladbroke Hall. Some 30 years later Sir Robert Dudley was said to have put 16 houses and 500 acres of arable in Ladbroke out of use, William Burton another 60 acres, and Ralph Garrett 16 acres.<sup>7</sup>

In the south-east corner of the parish is a small earthwork, of which the age and purpose are unknown, though the most likely explanation is that it is a ditch or moat surrounding a medieval dwelling.<sup>8</sup>

In 998 King Ethelred gave to the *MANORS* ealdorman Leofwine (father of the famous Leofric of Mercia) lands in Southam, Ladbroke, and Radbourn.<sup>9</sup> By 1086 Ladbroke had been split up into a number of estates. Of these the Count of Meulan held 2 hides, which William held of him;<sup>10</sup> Hugh de Gentemaisnil held 3 virgates;<sup>11</sup> and Turchil had four estates, the largest of which, 2 hides, 1 virgate, was held of him by William; another 3 virgates, of which the pre-conquest tenant was Hereward, were held of Turchil by Gilbert, 1 virgate by a priest, and 1½ hides in Ladbroke and Radbourn by Almar.<sup>12</sup> The count's estate descended to the Earls of Leicester, of whom Robert II married Pernell, heiress of Gentemaisnil. One of their two daughters and eventual co-heirs married Saier de Quincy, Earl of Winchester, whose son Roger died in 1264 seized of the manor of *LADBROKE*.<sup>13</sup> On the division of the Winchester fees this passed to Earl Roger's daughter Margaret, who had married William de Ferrers, Earl of Derby, and the overlordship descended in the line of Ferrers of Groby,<sup>14</sup> ranking as a quarter-fee in 1344 and as a half-fee at the death of Edward Grey, Lord Ferrers in right of his wife, in 1456,<sup>15</sup> the last occasion on which the overlordship is mentioned.

The overlordship of Turchil's estates came to the Earls of Warwick. In 1207 Alice, widow of Earl Waleran, recovered from his son Henry dower which included the service of 1 knight's fee in Ladbroke held by John de Ladbroke.<sup>16</sup> When John du Plessis, who was Earl of Warwick in right of his wife, died in 1263 his son by a previous wife, Hugh, tried to occupy the manor but was promptly ejected by the new earl, William Mauduit,<sup>17</sup> who died seized of the fee in 1268.<sup>18</sup> The Ladbroke therefore held of two overlords, and in a list of knight's fees of Thomas, Earl of Warwick, drawn up about 1320 it is noted that 'John de Ladbroke holds 1 fee; but he holds his chief messuage and all his land of the fee of Winchester, and all his tenants hold of the fee of Warwick'.<sup>19</sup>

The suggestion made by Dugdale<sup>20</sup> that the Domesday tenant William may have been the ancestor of the eponymous family<sup>21</sup> who held the manor for some two centuries is not correct. In the course of a dispute between the earls of Winchester and Warwick in 1262 over the guardianship of John son and heir of Henry de Ladbroke the jury stated that Robert le Bossu, Earl of Leicester (died 1168), gave the half-fee to Henry's

ancestor Mauger, 'before he had any other land in England'.<sup>22</sup> Mauger seems to have been succeeded by his brother<sup>23</sup> William de Ladbroke, who was holding a knight's fee of the Earl of Warwick in 1166,<sup>24</sup> as did his grandson John in 1207<sup>25</sup> and in 1235.<sup>26</sup> By 1242 John had been succeeded by his son Henry, who died between 1254<sup>27</sup> and 1257, in which year his widow is mentioned.<sup>28</sup> His son John was under age<sup>29</sup> and between 1260 and 1262 the custody of his person and of the messuage land and mill which he held in Ladbroke was disputed, as already mentioned, between the two earls who were his overlords.<sup>30</sup> Sir John de Ladbroke seems to have lived until about 1310,<sup>31</sup> being followed by his son Sir Henry, who held the manor in 1316<sup>32</sup> and 1329.<sup>33</sup> His son Sir John de Ladbroke held the quarter-fee of Henry, Lord Ferrers, in 1344<sup>34</sup> and released his rights in the manor of Ladbroke to William Catesby in 1349.<sup>35</sup> The exact significance of this is not clear, as in 1371 Thomas de Ladbroke, Sir John's eldest son, was holding of Sir William Ferrers certain tenements here and the advowson of the church.<sup>36</sup> It seems probable that Sir John had made a settlement of the manor in tail male on his son Thomas, with contingent remainder to Sir William Catesby, whose daughter Alice Thomas married.<sup>37</sup> When Sir John died, a very old man, in 1385 his heir was his daughter (by a second wife) Alice, then aged 30 and wife of Lewis Cardigan *alias* Cook,<sup>38</sup> and she and her husband disputed the manor with John son and heir of William Catesby. It was ultimately awarded to the latter, who was tenant of the Ferrers fee in 1387 and 1393.<sup>39</sup> His son William did homage for the manor to the Earl of Warwick in 1404-5 and died about three years later, being succeeded by his brother John.<sup>40</sup> He in conjunction with his mother Emma had a grant of free warren at Ladbroke in 1412.<sup>41</sup> His grandson William was a strong supporter of Richard III and was executed and attainted in 1485, and the manor of Ladbroke was seized into the king's hands and granted in 1488 to Sir John Risley in tail male.<sup>42</sup> In 1495, however, the attainder was reversed and on the death of Sir John Risley without male issue in 1512 the manor, with its court leet, was restored to Catesby's grandson William,<sup>43</sup> who died seized thereof in 1517, his heir being his brother Richard, then aged 11.<sup>44</sup> It descended to Robert Catesby, afterwards one of the conspirators in the Gunpowder Plot, and he sold it in 1597 to Sir Robert Dudley,<sup>45</sup> who also bought a considerable estate in Ladbroke from Sir John Spencer of Althorp.<sup>46</sup> Dudley, angered at his failure to establish his legitimacy and right to his father's title of Earl of



LADBROKE. *Azure a chevron ermine.*

<sup>7</sup> S.P. Dom. Chas. I, vol. 257, no. 129.

<sup>8</sup> *V.C.H. Warwick*, i, 383.

<sup>9</sup> *The Crawford*, ed. Charters (ed. Napier and Stevenson), no. 8.

<sup>10</sup> *V.C.H. Warwick*, i, 316.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.* 326. <sup>12</sup> *Ibid.* 320, 321.

<sup>13</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* i, 776.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.* viii, p. 317; *Chan. Inq. p.m.*

45 Edw. iii, no. 22; 11 Ric. II, no. 26;

17 Ric. II, no. 24.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.* 36 Hen. VI, no. 40.

<sup>16</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xi), 162.

<sup>17</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* i, 558. <sup>18</sup> *Ibid.* 679.

<sup>19</sup> Harl. MS. 28024, fol. 193.

<sup>20</sup> Dugd. 331.

<sup>21</sup> For the Ladbroke pedigree see Dugd.

331, and Harvey, op. cit. chap. vi.

<sup>22</sup> Assize R. 954, m. 19.

<sup>23</sup> Dugd. 331.

<sup>24</sup> *Red Bk. of Exch.* 326.

<sup>25</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xi), 162.

<sup>26</sup> *Bk. of Fees*, 508. <sup>27</sup> *Ibid.* 458.

<sup>28</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xi), 739.

<sup>29</sup> *Exc. e Rot. Fin.* ii, 263.

<sup>30</sup> Curia Regis R. 165, m. 20 d; Assize

R. 954, m. 19.

<sup>31</sup> Harvey, op. cit. 46-7.

<sup>32</sup> *Feud. Abdi.* v, 177.

<sup>33</sup> *Cat. Anct. D. ir.* A. 8051.

<sup>34</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* viii, p. 317.

<sup>35</sup> *Cat. Anct. D. iii.* A. 4576.

<sup>36</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 45 Edw. III, no. 22.

<sup>37</sup> Dugd. 331.

<sup>38</sup> Harvey, op. cit. 59, 60.

<sup>39</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 11 Ric. II, no. 26;

17 Ric. II, no. 24.

<sup>40</sup> Harvey, op. cit. 69.

<sup>41</sup> *Cal. Chart. R.* v, 447.

<sup>42</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1485-94, p. 209.

<sup>43</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), xxvii, 35.

<sup>44</sup> *Ibid.* xxxii, 21.

<sup>45</sup> Harvey, op. cit. 99. <sup>46</sup> *Ibid.*



Leicester, left England in 1605 and refused to return. His estates were taken into the hands of the Crown and administered for his wife and children, whom he had abandoned. In 1633 Lady Alice Dudley and her four daughters sold Ladbrooke to William Palmer of London.<sup>47</sup> He died in 1636 and his son William in 1642 exchanged Ladbrooke with his cousin Sir William Palmer for the latter's estate of Hill in Old Warden, Beds.<sup>48</sup> The latter Sir William died in 1682 and his eldest surviving son William settled at Ladbrooke, where he died in 1720.<sup>49</sup> His great-grandson William in 1825 inherited the Alfreton estate of his aunt Ellen Morewood and took the name of Palmer-Morewood.<sup>50</sup> On the death of his grandson Charles in 1910 the estate passed to his son Rowland Charles Arthur Palmer-Morewood.<sup>51</sup>



PALMER. *Argent two bars sable with three trefoils argent thereon and in chief a running greyhound sable collared or.*

In addition to the knight's fee held of the Earls of Warwick by the Ladbroke there was a fraction of a fee held of them in Ladbrooke. This may be the 3 virgates held of Turchil by Gilbert in 1086, as it first appears as 3 virgates in Ladbrooke held in 1226-8 by Henry Boscher by serjeanty of keeping one of the king's brachet hounds, and was then worth 15s. yearly.<sup>52</sup> In 1235 Henry Boscher was holding one-fifth fee of the Earl of Warwick.<sup>53</sup> He must have died not long after this date as his heirs are cited as holding a half-fee in 1242,<sup>54</sup> one of those heirs being possibly Roger de Sutham who held one-fifth fee here in 1268.<sup>55</sup> Henry Boscher's daughter Maud, however, gave her share of her father's lands in Ladbrooke to the Hospital of St. John outside the East Gate of Oxford,<sup>56</sup> to whom one Warin de Greneburgh also gave land with a house and croft here.<sup>57</sup> In a list of fees of the earl c. 1320 the master of the hospital is said to hold a quarter fee of the fee which Thomas de Anderne once held of the earl "and it is called Boscref".<sup>58</sup> In 1350 Adam de Lodbrooke, master of the hospital of St. John, leased the lands in this parish to William de Catesby at 40s.<sup>59</sup> —apparently much more than they were worth.<sup>60</sup> The hospital and its possessions were subsequently absorbed by Magdalen College.

The Cistercian abbey of Combe received a number of small grants of land in Ladbrooke, many of them from Henry (son of William) Boscher.<sup>61</sup>

A manor of Ladbrooke was granted, with that of Fenny Compton (q.v.), by John son and heir of Ralph Aylesbury to Alan Percy, clerk, in 1523.<sup>62</sup> But this manor or grange had apparently already been given to the Abbey of Combe by Margaret widow of Sir Robert Bellingham<sup>63</sup> and daughter and heir of John Beaufitz, who had bequeathed to her in 1489 his "manor of Ladbrooke called Wynteners".<sup>64</sup> In return for the gift the monks were to receive her into the fraternity of the Cistercian Order and to maintain one of their

number at the University of Oxford. Alan Percy, who was chaplain to Cardinal Wolsey, brought a number of suits in Chancery against Margery and Oliver and Robert, successive Abbots of Combe,<sup>65</sup> but these do not throw much light on the history of the manor and did not enable him to get possession of it. In 1535 the abbey's property in this parish was producing £4.<sup>66</sup> and early in 1538 the abbot and convent let the grange of Ladbrooke with its demesnes to William Alybonde, Alice his wife, and John his son for 60 years at a rent of £4.<sup>67</sup> Shortly afterwards the abbey was suppressed and in 1539 its estates were conveyed to the Duchess of Richmond for her life. After her death the manor or grange of Ladbrooke was among the estates acquired by Anthony Throckmorton in 1558,<sup>68</sup> and this was sold by his son John to Sir Robert Dudley in 1598,<sup>69</sup> after which it descended with the main manor.

The church of *ALL SAINTS* stands *CHURCH* on the west side of the Coventry-Banbury road, in the centre of a small churchyard with three large yew trees on the south side and entered by a lych-gate erected in 1884. The 13th-century church, which probably consisted of a chancel and nave, was entirely rebuilt in the 14th-century with north and south aisles and west tower. All that remains of the earlier church is the lower portion of the chancel. Late in the 15th century the nave and chancel were raised and clearstory windows inserted. It was restored and reroofed in 1876 by Sir Gilbert Scott.

The east wall of the chancel is built of small limestone rubble, with brown sandstone dressings, and has a plinth of two splay and low angle buttresses with gabled heads. Above the sill level the wall has been rendered with cement and the gable rebuilt with red bricks faced with cement; a projecting splay shows the line of the 16th-century roof. The window has three pointed lights under a pointed arch of two splayed orders dying out on splayed jambs, and a hood-moulding with head stops. The south side has a central buttress, probably added when the clearstory was built. There are three windows to the clearstory, each of three pointed cinquefoil lights, set in deep splay with flat heads. Below there is a similar window to the east, and to the west a modern window of three trefoil lights with a label. On the west side of the buttress there is a narrow doorway with an ogee head under a stop-chamfered segmental arch. The wall west of the buttress has been refaced, omitting the plinth. The north side has three clearstory windows corresponding with those on the south, with an offset at sill level formed by the original wall-head. The wall between these windows has been rendered with cement. Below, on either side of the buttress, there are twin lancet windows of one splay and a rectangular low-side window underneath the most westerly light.

The south aisle has been extensively refaced with a mixture of roughly coursed limestone interspersed with squared blocks of brown sandstone and has a plinth of two splay and a buttress at each end. The south wall

<sup>47</sup> Ibid. 137, 164.

<sup>48</sup> Ibid. 141, 147, 171.

<sup>49</sup> Ibid. 175-6.

<sup>50</sup> Ibid. 209.

<sup>51</sup> Ibid. 213; Burke, *Landed Gentry* (1937).

<sup>52</sup> *Bk. of Fees*, 375. <sup>53</sup> Ibid. 507.

<sup>54</sup> Ibid. 958; *Cal. Ing. p.m.* i, 10.

<sup>55</sup> Ibid. i, 679.

<sup>56</sup> *Cal. Chart. R.* i, 297.

<sup>57</sup> Ibid.

<sup>58</sup> *Harl. MS.* 28024, fol. 193.

<sup>59</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1348-50, p. 567.

<sup>60</sup> *Cal. Ing. Misc.* iii, 37.

<sup>61</sup> Harvey, op. cit. 317-21; abstracts of 33 deeds in the Combe chartulary (Cott.

*MS.* Vitell. A. 1).

<sup>62</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Trin. 15. Hen.

VIII.

<sup>63</sup> Dugd. 333; Harvey, op. cit. 20.

<sup>64</sup> P.C.C. 20 Miles.

<sup>65</sup> Early Chan. Proc. 552, nos. 68, 70;

553, no. 75; 873, no. 25; 1052, nos. 8-13;

1511, no. 32.

<sup>66</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 55.

<sup>67</sup> Harvey, op. cit. 21.

<sup>68</sup> Ibid. 23.

<sup>69</sup> Ibid. 25.

## A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

is lighted by a window of three ogee-headed trefoil lights of two splayed orders, with cusped spandrels, a flat head and label-moulding to the east, and by a similar one of two lights, to the west. Between these windows is the porch, which has been almost entirely rebuilt, the front of ashlar, the sides of coursed rubble, with modern stone seats on either side. The entrance has a pointed arch with continuous mouldings and a hood-mould with return ends. In the apex of the gable there is an incised stone sundial dated 1611, with a carved head corbel built in immediately below, and inside the porch large 14th-century carved head corbels have been built into the wall, two on each side.<sup>69a</sup> The doorway, which is modern except for the two lower courses of the jambs, has a pointed arch of one continuous splay. The east wall has been partly refaced and the plinth omitted; it has a modern two-light window with a flat head and a label with return ends. The west side has a window of three trefoil lights with a hollow-splayed four-centred arch. The lean-to roof is covered with lead and the clearstory has three windows of two trefoil lights set in deep splays with flat heads. The north aisle and clearstory are similar, but without a porch and the doorway is blocked. The west wall has been refaced and the plinth omitted. On the east wall there are traces of the line of the original steep-pitched chancel roof.

The tower is built of alternate bands of white limestone and brown sandstone with a plinth of three splays; it is not divided by string-courses, but has a weathered offset at the sill level of the belfry window. There are buttresses to the angles, those on the west being diagonal. They rise in five weathered stages, the lower stages having trefoiled gables with grotesque head-stops, and terminate in pinnacles at each corner of an embattled parapet. The tower is crowned with a tall, slender, octagonal spire having a floriated finial and weather-cock. At the base and midway there are canopied spire lights of two trefoil lights with pointed arches, quatrefoil piercings, crockets to the gables, with head-stops, and terminating in poppy heads. On the west side, in the lower stage, is a window of two trefoil lights and tracery with a pointed arch of two orders, the inner a splay and the outer a shallow wave-moulding, and finished with a hood-mould and head-stops. The belfry windows are of a similar type. In the string-course at the base of the parapet there are two gargoyles on each face. On the south side there are two loop-lights to the tower staircase, and a rectangular light to the ringing-chamber, with a clock dial above.

The chancel (32 ft. 3 in. by 18 ft.) has a modern tiled floor with two steps to the altar, plastered walls, and a modern low-pitched roof with moulded tie-beams, purlins, and wall-plates of early-16th-century date. The east window has splayed reveals with a segmental-pointed rear-arch. On the south the clearstory windows have splayed reveals with flat heads, and, below, the eastern window is similar. The modern window to the west is inserted in an earlier recess with a stop-chamfered segmental arch. Between these windows the narrow doorway has a plain ogee head. At the east end there are sedilia with three seats, having moulded cinquefoil ogee heads with crockets, poppy-head finials and head-stops over the moulded mullions dividing the seats; it is entirely a modern restoration except for the two mullions. In the centre

there is a wall monument of white marble with coloured marble pilasters supporting an interrupted pediment, with a coat of arms to William Palmer, lord of the manor, died 1720, and his wife Mary, died 1729. In the east clearstory window there are three panels of late-15th-century stained glass representing St. Cuthbert with the head of St. Oswald, St. Chad, and St. Giles with his hind. All the remaining glass is modern. On the north the clearstory corresponds with the south. The window to the east has wide-splayed jambs with a segmental-pointed arch embracing the two lancet windows, below is a badly mutilated recess 3 ft. wide with a moulded pointed arch and traces of a carved gable flanked by pinnacles, which may be an Easter Sepulchre. The window to the west is similar to the one to the east, but the recess is carried down to include the low-side window. The organ is placed between these two windows.

The nave (46 ft. 4 in. by 15 ft. 2 in.) has a modern tiled floor and open trussed rafter roof, and the walls are plastered. The clearstory windows on the south have splayed jambs with modern flat-shouldered rear-arches, and on the north splayed jambs with square heads. Both arcades are of three bays with pointed arches of two splayed orders supported on octagonal pillars with moulded capitals and bases of one splay. The responds repeat the orders of the arches with similar moulded capitals. The chancel arch follows the arcade in detail, but the springing is at a slightly higher level. The tower arch has widely splayed jambs with a pointed arch of four splayed orders on the nave side, the inner going down to the floor and the remainder dying out on the splayed jambs; the tower side has three splayed orders dying out on the tower walls. Above this arch is the line of the earlier roof. The pulpit, placed on the north side of the chancel arch, is a modern octagonal one with traceried panels on a stone base. Opposite the south door there is an early-17th-century wooden chest, bound with iron straps with two locks, a centre hasp, and two additional hasps fitted later.

The south aisle (43 ft. 7 in. by 9 ft. 2 in.) has a tiled floor, plastered walls, and a modern lean-to roof. The 15th-century windows are inserted in 14th-century recesses with widely splayed jambs and chamfered segmental rear-arches. The west window, which is a late-15th-century insertion, has a four-centred rear-arch. In the south wall there is a modern tomb recess with a chamfered segmental arch, built to accommodate an effigy of a priest in vestments, with his hands clasped in prayer, which was found under the floor of the chancel during the 1876 restoration; it is reputed to be John de Pavely, rector of Ladbroke (1298-1303) but is probably later. The font, placed near the south door, is modern.

The north aisle has similar window recesses, floors, and roof as the south aisle. The blocked north door has a chamfered segmental rear-arch.

The tower (11 ft. 6 in. by 8 ft. 11 in.) is paved with memorial slabs, one a large slate slab to Edward Rayney, with a coat of arms, who died 1699. In the north wall there is an aumbry with an ogee head and two 18th-century mural tablets. The window has a deep, square recess with a head consisting of a series of four plain pointed arches. The south-west angle is splayed for the circular tower staircase and has a narrow door with an ogee head. A modern traceried screen has been placed across the tower arch to form a vestry.

<sup>69a</sup> The corbels are said to have come from the lost chapel of Radbourne: *ex inf.* the Rev. J. L. Holt.

The five bells were recast by J. Taylor & Co. 1873.<sup>70</sup>  
The registers begin in 1559.

In 1086 there was 'a priest' among *ADWOWSON* the tenants on Hugh de Grentemaisnil's estate,<sup>71</sup> and 'a priest', possibly identical, held 1 virgate under Turchil.<sup>72</sup> The advowson of the rectory, which was valued at £10 in 1291<sup>73</sup> and at £13 10s. in 1535,<sup>74</sup> remained attached to the manor until about 1925, when Capt. A. H. Wheeler was patron, but shortly after this date the advowson was conveyed to the Bishop of Coventry.<sup>75</sup>

The Town Lands Charity was founded *CHARITY* by deed of feoffment dated 5 August 18 Elizabeth and is now regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 3 September 1901. The scheme provides that the income

of the charity shall be divided into the Ecclesiastical Branch and the Non-ecclesiastical Branch, under the administration of two separate bodies of trustees. The scheme appoints the rector and churchwardens for the time being of the parish of Ladbroke to be the trustees of the Ecclesiastical Branch, and provides that the trustees of the Non-ecclesiastical Branch shall, when complete, consist of three representative trustees and one co-opative trustee. The scheme further provides that the two bodies of trustees acting together shall be the Estate Trustees for the management of the estates and property of the charity, and that subject to certain payments the yearly income of the charity shall be divided equally between the two branches by the Estate Trustees. The endowment of the charity consists of 16 a. 11 r. of land at Ladbroke, producing an annual income of £24.

## CHURCH LAWFORD

Acreage: 1,767.

Population: 1911, 232; 1921, 271; 1931, 280.

The River Avon forms the northern boundary of the parish, and on it, no doubt, was the mill worth 10s. 6d. which was mentioned in the Domesday Survey<sup>1</sup> and was later given to the monks of Pipewell Abbey, being valued at 5s. in 1291.<sup>2</sup> The small village lies to the west of the church between the river and the road leading west from Rugby, close to which the railway from Rugby to Birmingham cuts straight across the parish. The country is open, rising gently from about 260 ft. in the north to 360 ft. in the south. A terrier of the glebe in 1635 speaks of 'the inclosure of some parts of the fields here fifty years ago',<sup>3</sup> probably by Thomas Wightman, who had put out of cultivation 140 acres of arable.<sup>4</sup>

An undated early-18th-century petition of 22 inhabitants of Church Lawford (3 of whom signed with their marks) to the Duke of Montagu for the establishment of a charity school has been preserved.<sup>5</sup> The Montagu estates here were rented at £704 17s. 10d. (plus woodland valued at £259 6s. 6d.) in 1710, and £1,115 15s. 6d. in 1796, when there were 36 tenants, and the duke owned all but about 100 acres of the parish ('the quantity of lands in this manor is between 1,600 and 1,700 acres').<sup>6</sup> As early as 1710 only 154 acres were arable, pasture accounting for 1,465 acres and river and upland meadow for 109. An undated survey, circa 1717, gives 37 tenants of 1,679 acres, valued at £770 14s. 10d., besides 84 acres of glebe and 29 of wood, waste, &c.<sup>7</sup>

In 1086 the 5-hide unit of [*CHURCH*] *MANOR LAWFORDE* was among the estates held of

Earl Roger of Shrewsbury by Rainald de Bailloul; before the Conquest Chetelbert held it.<sup>8</sup> In the reign of Henry II Roger Heyrun was lord of this

manor.<sup>9</sup> He was probably son of the William 'Hairo' who held land in Warwickshire in 1130.<sup>10</sup> There seem to have been three Rogers, all benefactors to Combe Abbey,<sup>11</sup> of whom it was probably the second who was dealing with land in Lawford in 1200,<sup>12</sup> and the third who was acquitted on a charge of arson in 1221.<sup>13</sup> On this occasion his brother William was mentioned as suspected, while among Roger's sureties were John Heyrun (presumably his brother) and William de Wavere of Lawford (John's son-in-law). Roger Heyrun, who in 1243 held a knight's fee in 'Lawford Heyrun' of John FitzAlan,<sup>14</sup> one coheir of Earl Roger, died in or shortly before 1251, leaving a widow Agnes, daughter of Richard atte Halle;<sup>15</sup> and, his brother John being dead, his heir was the latter's daughter Julian, then wife of William de Wavere.<sup>16</sup> William took his wife's name of Heyrun and left a son John and a daughter Margery, married to William de Newenham.<sup>17</sup> In 1307 John Heyrun settled the manor on himself for life with remainder to (his nephew) Robert son of William de Newenham and his wife Elizabeth daughter of Thomas Boydyn in tail, with contingent remainders to Nicholas, Julian, Walter, and Richard, brothers and sister of Robert.<sup>18</sup> This Robert is identified by Dugdale with Robert de Lalleford (i.e. Lawford), who figures as the chief taxpayer in Church Lawford to the subsidy of 1332;<sup>19</sup> but the Pipewell chronicler expressly states that Robert de Lalleford acquired his rights by purchase and not by heredity.<sup>20</sup> He was knight of the shire in 1340 and died before 1346, when his son John de Lalleford granted the manor to John Whitwell for life.<sup>21</sup> After the death of John de Lalleford his brother William is said to have granted the manor in 1361 to Walter Wythors and Isabel his wife, who conveyed it to trustees.<sup>22</sup>

By some means the manor came into the hands of the

<sup>70</sup> Tilly and Walters, *Church Bells of Warwick*, 181-2.

<sup>71</sup> *P.C.H. Warw.* i, 326. <sup>72</sup> *Ibid.* 321.

<sup>73</sup> *Tax. Ecl. (Rec. Com.)*, 242.

<sup>74</sup> *Valor Ecl. (Rec. Com.)*, iii, 62.

<sup>75</sup> *Clergy Lists*.

<sup>1</sup> *P.C.H. Warw.* i, 307.

<sup>2</sup> *Tax. Ecl. (Rec. Com.)*, 257.

<sup>3</sup> At Warwick: *ex inf.* M. W. Beresford.

<sup>4</sup> S. P. Dom. Chas. I, vol. 257, no. 129.

<sup>5</sup> Buccleuch-Queensberry MSS., Northants. Rec. Soc.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.* (Vol. of Maps of Lord John

Scott's Warw. Estates, 31/4).

<sup>8</sup> *P.C.H. Warw.* i, 307.

<sup>9</sup> Dugd. 29, citing Reg. of Combe Abbey.

<sup>10</sup> *Pipe R. 31 Hen. I* (H.M. Stat. Off.), 108.

<sup>11</sup> Dugd. 29.

<sup>12</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xi), 21.

<sup>13</sup> *Roll of Justices in Eyre in ... Warw.*

(Selden Soc.), 906. <sup>14</sup> *Bk. of Feet*, 950.

<sup>15</sup> *Exc. & Ret. Fin.* ii, 101; *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xi), 699.

<sup>16</sup> *Assize R.* 954, m. 15.

<sup>17</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xi), 697, 795,

851, 900.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.* 1263. Margery and her sons Richard and Nicholas and daughter Julian occur in 1320: *ibid.* 1550.

<sup>19</sup> *Lay Subs. R.* (Dugd. Soc.), 37.

<sup>20</sup> Cott. MS. Otho B. xiv, fol. 191: 'qui fuit porchasour et non heres dominorum de Churchlalleford.'

<sup>21</sup> Dugd. 30; this may account for the half-fee here said in 1428 to have been formerly held by John 'Whitwelle'.

<sup>22</sup> *Fund. Act.* v, 194. An earlier lease may explain John Brown's being called lord of Church Lawford in 1310: *ibid.* 177.

<sup>23</sup> Dugd. 30.

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

Staffords<sup>23</sup> and was held by Humphrey, Duke of Buckingham, at his death on the field of Northampton in 1460.<sup>24</sup> After the attainder of Edward, Duke of Buckingham, in 1521 it was granted to Thomas, Marquess of Dorset,<sup>25</sup> whose son Henry, Duke of Suffolk, was also attained, and in November 1554 the manor, with the park (20 acres) and other appurtenances, was granted to Robert Bayly, the elder and younger.<sup>26</sup> In May 1555 they had leave to convey the property to Thomas Leigh, alderman of London.<sup>27</sup> His grandson Francis, Lord Dunsmore, was holding the manor about 1640<sup>28</sup> and through his daughter Elizabeth it passed with Dunchurch (q.v.) to the Dukes of Montagu and Buccleuch.

The abbey of Combe received a number of small grants of land in Church Lawford from the Heyruns and others, Roger Heyrun and his widow Agnes both being buried in the abbey church.<sup>29</sup> In 1291 the Combe property in this parish produced £3 17s. 8d. yearly,<sup>30</sup> and in 1535 their rents amounted to £4 3s. 6d.<sup>31</sup> At the Dissolution the Combe estates were granted to the Duchess of Richmond for life and in May 1557 all the Crown's rights in such of this property as lay in Church Lawford were conveyed to Sir Rowland Hill and Thomas Leigh, the owner of the manor.<sup>32</sup>

The Northamptonshire abbey of Pipewell also held land in the parish,<sup>33</sup> the chief grant made to them being one from Roger (III) Heyrun of waste ground at Bromehill, or Marham, where the monks planted trees and established a sheep-run, and a water-mill and the site for a windmill.<sup>34</sup> In 1535 their rents here amounted to 52s.<sup>35</sup> After the Dissolution this property was granted in 1553 to John Grene of Westminster and Ralph Hall, scrivener.<sup>36</sup>

Stude was among the possessions of Coventry Priory confirmed in 1221 by Pope Honorius III,<sup>37</sup> and a chapel here is alleged to have been appropriated to the priory in 1260.<sup>38</sup> In 1528 the convent leased 100 acres and several groves at the Stode on Dunsmore Heath to Thomas Bromeswyse, his wife, and two sons for their lives;<sup>39</sup> and in 1554 this property was sold by the Crown to Thomas Reve and Giles Isham.<sup>40</sup>

Philip de Wynchecumbe in 1246 granted 1½ virgates in Church Lawford to the priory of the Holy Sepulchre, Warwick.<sup>41</sup> In 1535 the priory was receiving 20s. in rents from this parish,<sup>42</sup> and in 1544 a message here which had belonged to the priory was included in a grant to John Burges and Edward Wotton, Doctors of Medicine.<sup>43</sup>

The church of *ST. PETER* is situated *CHURCH* to the east of the village, standing on the north side of a large churchyard. It consists of a chancel, nave, north and south aisles, west tower, north porch, and a vestry. It was rebuilt in the gothic style in hammer-dressed sandstone ashlar in 1874, and all that has been retained of the previous church is three bays of the 14th-century north arcade, two piscinas, the font, and some fragments of tracery and early-14th-century slabs with foliated crosses built into the tower walls. A low side window and two

lancets, redressed and restored have been re-used in the north wall of the chancel.

The chancel has a tiled roof and is lighted on the north by the low side window, a lancet, and a pointed three-light window; on the east by one of five lights; and on the south by one three-light. All the windows except the re-used lancets and low side are traceried and have hood-moulds with carved stops. The aisles have low-pitched lean-to roofs covered with lead, and the nave a tiled one of steep pitch. Each aisle is lighted by four two-light windows, with single ones east and west. The clearstory has five three-light windows on each side.

The tower, which rises in three stages, divided by string-courses, has buttresses at each angle, and a battlemented parapet with gargoyles at each angle. On the north side is the tower staircase, square, splayed to an octagonal battlemented turret. There are single lights to the second stage and the belfry has two-light traceried windows on each face. The west doorway, combined with a three-light pointed traceried window, has a pointed head, carved spandrels, and a band decorated with three shields and the date 1874. The porch has a moulded pointed entrance arch on detached shafts with foliated capitals and moulded bases. The doorway has a moulded arch with a hood-mould.

The chancel (30 ft. 10 in. by 15 ft. 6 in.) has a 14th-century piscina at the eastern end of the south wall, with an ogee trefoiled head and twin circular basins, the projecting portion a restoration. Opposite, in the north wall, there is an aumbry with a shelf and the iron hinge-pins of a door. There are two steps to the altar, which is modern, but the rails with turned balusters date from the 17th century and below the window on the south side there is some panelling inscribed *ENIS THOI 1618*; further sections of this oak panelling are fixed at the eastern ends of both aisles. On the south side an arcade of two bays of pointed arches opens into an organ chamber and vestry.

The nave (51 ft. 4 in. by 15 ft. 6 in.) has an open roof with moulded members, the tie-beams with central carved bosses. The arcades each consist of five bays of pointed arches of two splayed orders on octagonal pillars with moulded capitals and bases. The three eastern bays of the north arcade are 14th century, the pillars being constructed of alternate courses of light and red sandstone. Below the corbel supporting the east bay there is a 14th-century piscina with a trefoil ogée head, fitted with a modern circular basin. The chancel arch is of two moulded orders with a hood-mould, the inner order supported on moulded corbels. The pulpit, placed to the south of the chancel arch, is octagonal with carved panels and dates from the 17th century; it stands on a modern stone base. The font in the south-west corner is octagonal, of red sandstone with a moulded basin on an octagonal stem splayed to a square base. It dates from the 14th century and has a deep lead-lined basin.

The south aisle (51 ft. 4 in. by 10 ft. 6 in.) has a dummy south doorway with a round head and standing

<sup>23</sup> Dugd. 30.

<sup>24</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. 38 and 39 Hen. VI.

no. 59.

<sup>25</sup> Dugd. 30; Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2),

liii, 16.

<sup>26</sup> Cal. Pat. 1554-5, p. 22.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid. p. 140.

<sup>28</sup> Dugd. 30. Cf. Feet of F. Warw.

Trin. 1649.

<sup>29</sup> Dugd. 29; Cott. MS. Vitell. A. 1,

fol. 63-5.

<sup>30</sup> Tax. Eccl. (Rec. Com.), 255.

<sup>31</sup> Valor Eccl. (Rec. Com.), iii, 54.

<sup>32</sup> Cal. Pat. 1555-7, p. 476.

<sup>33</sup> Cal. Chart. R. i, 205.

<sup>34</sup> Cott. MS. Otho B. xiv, fol. 191.

<sup>35</sup> Valor Eccl. (Rec. Com.), iv, 295.

<sup>36</sup> Cal. Pat. 1553, p. 215.

<sup>37</sup> Cal. Papal Letters, i, 85.

<sup>38</sup> Dugd. 30.

<sup>39</sup> Mon. Bailliff's Accts. (Dugd. Soc.), 61.

<sup>40</sup> Cal. Pat. 1553-4, p. 471.

<sup>41</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xi), 620.

<sup>42</sup> Valor Eccl. (Rec. Com.), iii, 86.

<sup>43</sup> L. and P. Hen. VIII, xiv (2), 800 (11).





LADBROKE CHURCH, 1820



MAP OF CHURCH LAWFORD, 1725



LEAMINGTON HASTINGS CHURCH: NORTH DOOR

in the recess so formed there is a memorial slab with the following inscription:

Here in a steadfast hope of joyful resurrection resteth y<sup>e</sup> bodye of Tho: Evans Gentleman, borne at Henlan in y<sup>e</sup> coun: of denbigh who attended on y<sup>e</sup> great seale of England as ordinarie messenger about XXX yeares & about 13 yeares one of y<sup>e</sup> 4 ordinarie of y<sup>e</sup> receipt he gave by his last will fyfthe poundes for a stock to continue for ever that y<sup>e</sup> profit thereof yearlie raised might be employed towards y<sup>e</sup> repaire of this church where his body is interred. Besides divers other good somes of money for y<sup>e</sup> reliefe of y<sup>e</sup> poore & repaire of y<sup>e</sup> churches in such places as he had lived in and having accomplished y<sup>e</sup> age of LXXVII yeares he deceased at Newenham Regis y<sup>e</sup> XII day of august A<sup>o</sup>D MDCXII.

At the east end there is an arched opening to the organ chamber. The north aisle is the same length as the south but 11 ft. 6 in. wide.

The tower (10 ft. square) paved with stone, has a painted list of charities on the walls, and a framed Royal Arms of George III. The arch is pointed, of five played orders to the nave and two to the tower, the inner order supported on moulded corbels.

Of the bells, the treble, by Watts of Leicester, 1621, was given by Mark Brewster, a London wool merchant who died at Moscow. Two others were recast by J. Taylor & Co. in 1872.<sup>44</sup> A fourth bell was added later, and in 1932 the ring was augmented to six.<sup>44a</sup>

The plate consists of a pewter flagon; a silver flagon, the gift of Revd. R. Edmunds 1851; a silver chalice of 1667; two silver patens of 1851, and two pewter plates.

The registers commence 1575.

At some date between 1086 and *ADVOWSON* 1094 Hugh Baldran and Aeliz his wife gave to the Norman abbey of St. Pierre-sur-Dives the churches of Wolston and of St. Peter of Lawford ('Ledleford'), the latter with its endowment of 1 hide of land. His grant was confirmed by his lord Rainald de Bailleul and by Roger, Earl of Shrewsbury.<sup>45</sup> During the long wars with France the abbey's English possessions, which were administered from its cell of Wolston Priory, were frequently in the hands of the king, who presented to Lawford Church;<sup>46</sup> and at last, in 1394, the abbey sold its English property to the Carthusian priory of Coventry.<sup>47</sup> The church, which was valued at £6 13s. 4d. in 1291,<sup>48</sup> was not appropriated and in 1535 the Carthusians were receiving from it only a pension of 50s.,<sup>49</sup> the clear value of the rectory being then £11 15s. 4d.<sup>50</sup> After the

Dissolution the advowson was acquired by Sir Thomas Leigh, who presented in 1559,<sup>51</sup> and it then descended with the manor until 1919, when it was transferred to the Bishop of Coventry. Since 1595 the benefice has been united with that of Kings Newnham. Terriers of 1635 and 1698 show 80 acres of glebe, in 4 plots; at neither of these dates was there any rectory house.<sup>52</sup>

The only known evidence for the alleged chapel of Stude (mentioned above) seems to be the occurrence of 'William son of the chaplain of Stude', accused of homicide at Lawford in 1232,<sup>53</sup> and the statement in 1276 that William Bagod when sheriff (1271) caused 20 sheep, worth 20s. to be taken from the chaplain of Stude (*sic*) for the king's service and paid nothing for them.<sup>54</sup>

The Rev. Robert Edmonds by his *CHARITIES* will proved on 17 August 1863 bequeathed to the rector and churchwardens of Church Lawford £500, the interest to be laid out on 25 March in every year in the following manner: viz. £5 towards the support of the Sunday School penny club, £2 for the purchase or towards the repair of books in the old parish library, and the remainder in the purchase of either coals, blankets, or sheeting, or in certain named articles of grocery, to be distributed generally among the poor of the parishes of Church Lawford and King's Newnham, special favour to be shown to the widows, the aged, and those having large families. The testator directed that the recipients of the charity shall be members of the Church of England. Miss Anne Edmonds, a niece of the testator gave £200 in augmentation of his gift to be held upon the same trusts. By an Order dated 21 December 1906 the Charity Commissioners determined that the part of the endowment of the charities which ought to be applied to educational purposes consists of the sum of £200 Consols, part of the sum of £555 15s. 3d. like Stock constituting the endowment of the charities. The annual income of the charities for the poor amounts to £8 17s. 8d.

James Croft by will dated 30 June 1830 gave to the minister and parish officers of Church Lawford £500, to apply yearly £10, part of the interest, in educating 5 boys and 5 girls, children of the most deserving poor of the parish, and to distribute the remainder of the interest on New Year's day in blankets, sheets, and coals amongst the most deserving and industrious poor of the parish. The annual income of the charity for the poor amounts to £5 8s.

## LEAMINGTON HASTINGS

Acreage: 3,366.

Population: 1911, 377; 1921, 356; 1931, 331.

Leamington Hastings is a parish and scattered village 4 miles north-east of Southam. The river Leam, from which the name is derived, forms the northern boundary and receives two tributaries; one flows north-west from Grandborough and, with several branches, one rising at the hamlet of Broadwell, drains the eastern part of the parish; the other flows due north from Stockton and forms the western boundary. The land is

fairly flat, rising from 233 ft. where the road from Southam to Rugby crosses the Leam at Kites Hardwick or Thurlaston Bridge<sup>1</sup> to 339 ft. where this road receives a branch from Napton near the south-west corner of the parish. The only other road of present-day importance is that running from Hill in the centre of the parish, through Leamington Hastings village to Birdingbury and Marton; but there are numerous unmetalled roads and tracks, one of which, running from Hill across Grandborough Fields towards

<sup>44</sup> Tilley and Walters, *Church Bells of Warwick*, 134-5.

<sup>44a</sup> *Ex inf.* the Rev. L. W. Blount, rector.

<sup>45</sup> *Cal. Doc. France*, 202.

<sup>46</sup> *Cal. Pat.*, passim.

<sup>47</sup> *V.C.H. Warwick*, ii, 133.

<sup>48</sup> *Tax. Eval.* (Rec. Com.), 241.

<sup>49</sup> *Paler Fecl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 53.

<sup>50</sup> *Ibid.* 62.

<sup>51</sup> *Dugd.* 31.

<sup>52</sup> Boscoteuch-Queensberry MSS., Northants. Rec. Soc.

<sup>53</sup> *Assize R.* 951, m. 3.

<sup>54</sup> *Rot. Hund.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 235.

<sup>1</sup> This bridge, originally repairable by the owners of certain lands, had been destroyed for the safety of the county in the Civil War. In 1648 it was ordered to be repaired at the charge of the county for £10. *Warwick Co. Rec.* ii, 204, 247, 257-8.

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

Flecknoe and Staverton (Northants.) seems to have once been more frequently used; the inhabitants of the parish, who had been presented at Quarter Sessions for its non-repair, had by Michaelmas 1637 done this 'well and sufficiently'. This road is described as that from Leamington Hastings to Daventry.<sup>2</sup> The Warwick branch of the Oxford Canal runs along the southern edge of the parish parallel to the Weedon-Leamington Spa branch of the former L.M.S. Railway, whose station of Napton and Stockton is just within its borders, but the station nearest the village is Birdingbury,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles away on the Rugby-Leamington branch. There is no woodland in the parish except for a few small copses. Besides the main village there are three hamlets, Broadwell, Hill, and Kites Hardwick, each at one time a separate manor; Broadwell has a separate post office, a Church of England mission church and a Methodist chapel, and Hardwick a mission room, but the population, at less than 1 person to 10 acres, is distinctly sparse. Most of the land was in pasture but much has now been converted to arable.

Among famous men connected with Leamington Hastings are Sir Thomas Trevor (1586-1656), a 17th-century lord of the manor, Baron of the Exchequer and parliamentary judge,<sup>3</sup> and Richard Congreve (1818-99), the Positivist, who was a native.<sup>4</sup>

Some interesting particulars are contained in an early-17th-century document endorsed 'A Note of the p'ticuler commodities of Lemington Hastings', printed in *Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica* (vol. i, pp. 293-4). The glebe land of Ougham and Westcroft (in Kites Hardwick) was capable of supporting 10 milch cows besides 'rearers' and two or three hundred sheep, and also contained 4 yard land<sup>5</sup> of corn and hay. The tithe corn of the parish had been sold to certain Coventry men for 200 marks a year, reckoning corn at 18d, the bushel, and was now considered worth at least £200 yearly; the tithes of wool had been sold for £40 yearly. The demesnes of the manor comprised over 600 acres, 'all inclosure for corne, sheepe and meadow'; 1,000 sheep could be kept on them.

About 1665 Thomas Gill gave to Sir Thomas Wheler and other trustees lands in the common fields of Leamington for the building of a school and a hospital. Some two years later his widow Susan Gill opposed the proposal to inclose the fields, on the ground that they produced good crops and that inclosure would ruin the freeholders and cause depopulation.<sup>6a</sup> The inclosure, however, was carried through<sup>6b</sup>, and a portion allotted as the Poor's Land was charged with providing £25 yearly for the school.<sup>6c</sup>

A little to the south-east of the church there is a row of 17th-century almshouses. They are built of coursed squared limestone with very thin alternate courses and red sandstone dressings, except two, added later, which have white sandstone dressings. It is a long rectangular building of two stories under one roof, the upper floor lighted by dormer windows. The south front faces the road and over one of the doors towards the east there is a brass tablet with an inscription<sup>6</sup> recording that Humphrey Davies founded the almshouse in 1607 and bequeathed lands for its endowment, which were detained for 26 years and only recovered in 'this present

year 1633' with the help of Sir Thomas Trevor, baron of the Exchequer and lord of the manor. Towards the west there is a further inscription in a carved frame on a stone tablet as follows: 'This Home for the maintenance of two poor people of this parish for ever was built and endowed 1606, pertaining to the last will of Dorothy relict of Sir Charles Wheler Bart.' Internally the accommodation has been much altered. It seems probable that the earlier building consisted of four apartments, that two in the same style were built on to the west in 1606, and later another was added, also at the west end, with a gable instead of a dormer to light the upper floor. All the fireplaces have modern chimney-pieces, except one, much mutilated, with stone jambs and a chamfered oak lintel. On the south front there are three doorways, all cut through the walls and finished with thin timber lintels, six three-light flat-headed windows, with label mouldings returned at the ends, two later square windows cut through the walls, five dormers, and a buttress marking the junction between the two periods of building. On the north are brick additions, one dated 1841, into which some original stone two-light windows have been built, but without their label mouldings. The whole has been reroofed (1949) and the chimney-stacks rebuilt in modern brickwork.

Kites Hardwick,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles east of the church on the east side of the Southam-Rugby road, is a tall three-story square red brick building with stone dressings, of early-18th-century date. It is built against the remains of a 16th-century house which retains an original two-light square-headed window with moulded jambs and mullion. The north and east elevations are plain brickwork without openings or stone dressings, which suggests that the present house is part of an ambitious scheme that was never completed. The main front to the south has a stone moulded plinth, rebated quoins, and a central doorway with a moulded architrave, keystone, and segmental pediment. There are three sash windows to each of the upper floors and one on either side of the door, all with stone moulded architraves, sills, and projecting keystones. At each floor level there are moulded string-courses, which are returned round the keystones, and above a stone moulded cornice on which rests a parapet divided into panels by stone piers and finished with a moulded coping. The west elevation, with four windows to each floor, is less elaborate than the south, but the cornice, parapet, and plinth have been continued. There are no internal features of interest. In the church there is an 18th-century memorial tablet to John Smith of Kites Hardwick; and William Smith in 1711 left a rent-charge on his lands in Hardwick for the poor of this and neighbouring parishes.<sup>7</sup>

The chief estate of LEAMINGTON was MANORS according to Domesday Book held by

Hasculf Musard of the king and was rated at 12½ hides and half a virgate; 2s. of its total value of £12 was represented by a mill, and the pre-Conquest tenant had been one Azor.<sup>8</sup> Hasculf also held Whitnash and Haseley in Warwickshire, besides extensive estates elsewhere, and the three villages were held by his descendant Robert Musard in 1235 as 2 knight's fees.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid. ii, 2.

<sup>3</sup> *Dict. Nat. Bing.*

<sup>4</sup> Ibid. Suppl.

<sup>5</sup> 'A yard land is, as I have heard, 50 acres, but they measure not there by the

acre.'

<sup>6a</sup> *Chan. Proc. Bridges*, 567, no. 121.

<sup>6b</sup> *Birm. Arch. Soc.*, lvi, 91.

<sup>6c</sup> *P.C.H. Warw.* ii, 370.

<sup>6</sup> The full inscription is given in Dugd.

320.

<sup>7</sup> Dugd. 322.

<sup>8</sup> *P.C.H. Warw.* i, 339.

<sup>9</sup> *Book of Fees*, 510. Reduced to 1 fee in 1428: *Feudal Aids*, v, 194.



The overlordship of the Musards was still recognized in 1410<sup>10</sup> and 1419.<sup>11</sup>

Hasculf's tenant on his other Warwickshire estates was Humfrey, the ancestor of the Hastang family, who subsequently appear at Leamington also and gave the village its distinctive name. Robert Hastang, Humfrey's great-great-grandson, according to Dugdale,<sup>12</sup> granted a hide in Leamington Hastings and Hill to Hugh son of Henry in 1248.<sup>13</sup> His grandson John had right of free warren in his demesnes in 1305,<sup>14</sup> and two years later lost 78 sheep, worth £20, concerning whose killers a commission of oyer and terminer was issued.<sup>15</sup> He was stated to be lord of Leamington *cum membris*



HASTANG. Azure a chief gules and over all a lion or.



STAFFORD of Grafton. Or a chevron gules and a canton ermine.

in 1316.<sup>16</sup> In 1309 and 1315 he and his wife Eve settled the manor on themselves in tail with contingent remainder to his right heirs.<sup>17</sup> Fresh settlements were made in 1319 on his son Thomas<sup>18</sup> and in 1325 on John for life with remainder to Thomas and Elizabeth his wife and the heirs of the former.<sup>19</sup> Their son Sir John Hastang was the last of the male line and died before 1375, when his daughter Maud proved her age and with her husband Ralph de Stafford received the rents, services, and customs of all tenants in Leamington and Hill, valued at £56, and the site of the manor with all except 100 acres of the demesne lands.<sup>20</sup> These 100 acres, valued at 41s. 8d., with land in Bradwell worth £38 11s. 9d. were reserved for Maud's sister Joan, who was still a minor, and later became the manor of Bradwell (q.v.).

Ralph Stafford also received small grants of land and rents from William de Halughton and Maud his wife (1370)<sup>21</sup> and Thomas Chirchyard and Joan his wife (1398).<sup>22</sup> At his death in 1410 his son Humphrey was 26;<sup>23</sup> the latter made a settlement of the manor on trustees and died 8 years later, when his son John succeeded.<sup>24</sup> John's brother, another Humphrey, was killed at Sevenoaks in Jack Cade's rebellion in 1450,<sup>25</sup> and Humphrey's sons Humphrey and Thomas were implicated in Lord Lovell's rising of 1485, the former being attainted and executed.<sup>26</sup> After a short interval in crown hands the manor was granted to Sir Edward

Poynings,<sup>27</sup> who died in possession in 1521.<sup>28</sup> He left no legitimate issue, his heir being his cousin Henry Percy, 5th Earl of Northumberland,<sup>29</sup> but Sir Humphrey Stafford's son Humphrey, having been restored to favour in 1514,<sup>30</sup> regained the manor, which he held at his death in 1545.<sup>31</sup> His grandson Humphrey was dealing with it in 1554<sup>32</sup> and made a settlement in 1563,<sup>33</sup> and Humphrey the grandson of this latter Humphrey was vouchee in a recovery of 1602.<sup>34</sup> He seems to have died very soon after, for his brother Sir William Stafford was in possession in 1606 when he settled the manor on his heirs male with reversion to his brothers Walter and Anthony and daughters Bridget, Elizabeth, and Mary; he died the same year.<sup>35</sup> The Staffords finally relinquished the manor when William and John, Sir William's sons, and Elizabeth the wife of the former, sold it in 1630 to Sir Thomas Trevor, Baron of the Exchequer.<sup>36</sup> Sir Thomas's son, another Thomas, was created a baronet in 1641 but died (1676) without issue, bequeathing Leamington Hastings to Sir Charles Wheeler, whose maternal grandmother was the sister of the elder Sir Thomas Trevor.<sup>37</sup> Sir William Wheeler, Sir Charles's grandson, was dealing with the manor in 1724.<sup>38</sup> The Wheelers were still lords in 1796,<sup>39</sup> but 2 years later, on the death of Sir William (son of the preceding), the estates were divided, part remaining with the baronetcy but the manor-house and some 2,000 acres (of 2,700 acres in all) going to Lucy his only surviving child.<sup>40</sup> Her husband Edward



WHEELER. Or a chevron between three leopard's heads sable.



SITWELL. Barry or and wavy three lions sable.

Sacheverell Wilmot Sitwell was lord 1801-19,<sup>41</sup> and the manor still remains with this family.<sup>42</sup>

Joan Hastang, to whom *BRADWELL* or *BROADWELL* was allotted in 1375,<sup>43</sup> married Sir John Salisbury (executed 1388).<sup>44</sup> She was lady of the manor in 1398, when her husband was Rustin de Villeneuve.<sup>45</sup> Later she married Roger Swynnerton;<sup>46</sup> her heir was her daughter Joan, wife of Henry Delves, aged 28 at her mother's death in 1420.<sup>47</sup> There seem to have been no children of this marriage, and in 1514 when the Stafford family were restored to their estates, it was passed to Humphrey Stafford by Edward Littleton,<sup>48</sup> whose wife Helen was the daughter of

<sup>10</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. 11 Hen. IV, 38.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid. 7 Hen. V, 18.

<sup>12</sup> p. 312.

<sup>13</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xi), 679.

<sup>14</sup> Cal. Chart. R. iii, 49.

<sup>15</sup> Cal. Pat. 1301-7, p. 541.

<sup>16</sup> Feudal Aids, v, 176.

<sup>17</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xv), 1280.

<sup>18</sup> 1311. Two-thirds of the manor was

settled in 1309 and the remainder in 1315.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid. 1528.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid. 1617.

<sup>21</sup> Cal. Close, 1374-7, pp. 121-2.

<sup>22</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xviii), 2168.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid. 2371.

<sup>24</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. 11 Hen. IV, 38.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid. 7 Hen. V, 18.

<sup>26</sup> Stow, Annals (ed. Howes, 1631),

p. 305.

<sup>27</sup> Dugd. 318.

<sup>28</sup> Cal. Pat. 1485-94, p. 250.

<sup>29</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), lxxx, 197.

<sup>30</sup> Dict. Nat. Biog.

<sup>31</sup> L. & P. Hen. VIII, i, 438 (3 m. 19),

2490 (revised ed.).

<sup>32</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), lxxv, 89.

<sup>33</sup> Feet of F. Div. Cos. East. 1 Mary.

<sup>34</sup> Ibid. East. 5 Eliz.

<sup>35</sup> Recov. R. Mich. 44 Eliz. ro. 164.

<sup>36</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), ccxcv, 111.

<sup>37</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Trin. 6 Chas. I.

<sup>38</sup> G. E. C. Compl. Baronetage, iii, 107.

<sup>39</sup> Feet of F. Warw. East. 10 Geo. I.

<sup>40</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations, Shire

Hall, Warwick.

<sup>41</sup> G. E. C. Compl. Baronetage, iii, 108.

<sup>42</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations.

<sup>43</sup> Henry Wheeler Sitwell was lord in

1014 (P.R.O. List).

<sup>44</sup> See note 20 above.

<sup>45</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. 12 Ric. II, 92; 17

Ric. II, 70.

<sup>46</sup> Wm. Salt. Ser. xv, 91, from De Banco

R. Mich. 22 Ric. II, m. 546.

<sup>47</sup> Ancestor, vii, 236-8.

<sup>48</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. 7 Hen. V, 6.

<sup>49</sup> P.R.O. Anct. Deeds, B. 10798.

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

Humphrey Swinnerton.<sup>49</sup> The last mention of Bradwell as a separate manor is in the inquisition *post mortem* on Humphrey Stafford (1545).<sup>50</sup>

A manor of **HARDWICK**, known in the 16th century as **HARDWICK GRIMBALD**,<sup>51</sup> is to be identified with the hamlet of Kites Hardwick in the north-east corner of the parish. The first mention is in 1236, when Robert Hastang made Richard de Wulurinton his attorney in a suit against William de Herdewic regarding the customs and services owed by the latter.<sup>52</sup> The Herdewic family were of Lindley (Leics.), but some of them at least seem to have resided at this manor of theirs, John Herdwyk being a collector of a subsidy in Warwickshire in 1349, 1350, and 1352,<sup>53</sup> and a justice when Coventry was given a separate commission of the peace in 1377.<sup>54</sup> The male line died out with another John in 1510,<sup>55</sup> and in the partition of his estates Hardwick was assigned to William Dyngley and Alice his wife, John's eldest daughter. His son John and grandson Henry were dealing with the manor in 1538<sup>56</sup> and 1575,<sup>57</sup> and Francis, son of the latter, sold it in 1589 to Richard Clever,<sup>58</sup> whose grandson was lord in 1640.<sup>59</sup> It was again sold, to the Trevors of Leamington Hastings, before 1676, since when it has descended with that manor (q.v.).

Two hides in **HILL** were in 1086 held by Abingdon abbey, having been bought (*emit*) by the abbot of the fee of Turchil; Warin was the sub-tenant.<sup>60</sup> The early history of this estate is conflicting, for the abbey's chronicle states in one place that the lands in question were granted (*concessit*) by Turchil and confirmed by William the Conqueror, and in another that the abbot bought (*emit*) them of the king himself.<sup>61</sup> In 1201 Ralph son of Wigan stated that his ancestor Wigan had been enfeoffed of one hide in Hill, which the abbot was claiming from him, by Henry I as a result of the felony of Roger de Causton, the previous holder. Judgement was given in favour of the abbot.<sup>62</sup> It was probably this hide which was 2 years later granted by Hugh, Abbot of Abingdon, to Henry son of Pagan as one-sixth of a knight's fee;<sup>63</sup> Hugh, surnamed of Abingdon, Henry's son, was holding this portion of the abbey in 1242-3, and William de Curly a similar fraction of a fee, thus accounting for the original 2 hides.<sup>64</sup> Hugh had sold all his holding here to Robert Hastang by 1251-2; the service was then stated to be castle-ward at Windsor.<sup>65</sup> By his marriage to Joan, coheir of William de Curly,<sup>66</sup> Robert Hastang also obtained possession of the other Abingdon Abbey holding, which henceforth descended with Leamington Hastings, being allotted to Maud and her husband Ralph Stafford on the partition of the Hastang estates in 1375.<sup>67</sup>

The church of **ALL SAINTS** is **CHURCH** situated on the south of the village, and stands to the west of the churchyard. It consists of a chancel, nave, north and south aisles and porches, and west tower. Built about the middle of the 13th century it then consisted of a chancel, nave,

and south aisle, and soon afterwards a north chapel was added. At the beginning of the 14th century the nave and south aisle were extended by the addition of two bays, and a small south porch was erected. About the end of that century the north chapel was extended to form the north aisle, and the tower and north porch were built. In 1677 the chancel was entirely rebuilt, a clearstory added to the nave, the windows in the south aisle replaced and the aisles re-roofed. In 1703 much of the south side of the church was rebuilt and the south porch was extended. In 1875 extensive repairs were carried out, the chancel re-roofed, re-using some of the old timbers, the stonework of the three large windows in the north aisle replaced, and the open timber roof of the nave concealed by a flat matchboarded ceiling.

The chancel is built of roughly squared rubble, with a plinth of one splay and a low-pitched roof covered with slates. The east end has angle buttresses with crocketed finials, the finials being renewed as part of a modern rebuilding of the upper part of the gable in red sandstone ashlar.<sup>68</sup> The window is of three cinquefoil lights, a flat head and a hood-moulding with mask stops, and above a tablet with the date 1677. The north side has two similar square-headed windows, but of two lights, and between them a narrow doorway, slightly projected, with a gable, in the form of a porch. The doorway has a pointed arch, its mouldings continued down the jambs without capitals, and is probably the north door from the destroyed 13th-century chancel. The south side has been considerably rebuilt and has no plinth; a note in the church registers for 1704 states: 'The south side of the church was rebuilt including the arches from the foundations.' It has two two-light windows similar to those on the north.

The north aisle, divided into four bays by three buttresses with gabled crocketed heads, is built of red sandstone ashlar, except the west bay, which is of small limestone rubble. The parapet to the low-pitched roof is plain, but supported on a hollow corbel-course with human heads in its hollow. On the east it is lighted by a pointed window of three trefoil lights and tracery, all modern with the exception of the jambs and hood-moulding. It has an angle buttress similar to the others, and in the angle against the chancel there is a grotesque gargoyle. In the east bay on the north side is a single narrow trefoil light of one splay with an ogee head, which has probably been lowered, as its rear-arch is considerably higher. The next bay has a three-light window similar to that in the east wall, and the next contains the north doorway, a fine example of late-14th-century work. It projects 3 ft. 6 in. from the wall face to form a small porch with a gable, roofed with slates. Its ogee arch is richly moulded and in the wide hollow of the moulding a vine stalk, issuing from the mouths of the head-stops and a head in the apex, fills the hollow with its leaves and fruit; the ogee label is finished by a head terminal, and the round mouldings of the jambs are provided with capitals, now badly

<sup>49</sup> *Vint. Worcs.* 1569 (Harl. Soc. xvii).

<sup>50</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), lxv, 89.

<sup>51</sup> There seems to be no record of a Grimbold family in connexion with this hamlet: see *Place-Names of Warw.* (Engl. Place-Name Soc.), 139.

<sup>52</sup> *Cal. Clois.* 1234-7, p. 352. William quitclaimed half a carucate to Robert in the same year (*Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xi), 545), possibly in settlement of this law-

suit. <sup>53</sup> *Cal. Fine R.* vi, 191, 269.

<sup>54</sup> *Cal. Clois.* 1377-81, p. 88.

<sup>55</sup> Nichols, *Leics.* iv, 643.

<sup>56</sup> Feet of F. Div. Cos. East. 30 Hen.

VIII. <sup>57</sup> *Ibid.* Mich. 17-18 Eliz.

<sup>58</sup> Dugd. 322, quoting MSS. of Clever family.

<sup>59</sup> Dugd. 322. See also note 37 above.

<sup>60</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* i, 306.

<sup>61</sup> *Chron. Monast. Abingdon* (Rolls Ser.), ii, 8, 284.

<sup>62</sup> *Curia Regis R.* i, 463.

<sup>63</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xi), 151.

<sup>64</sup> *Book of Fees*, 953.

<sup>65</sup> *Ibid.* 1278.

<sup>66</sup> Dugd. 316.

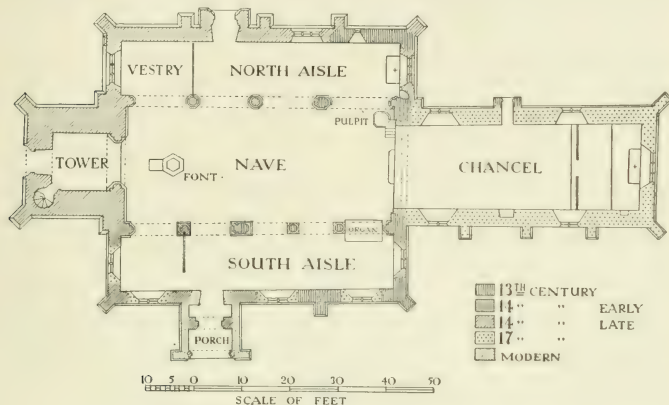
<sup>67</sup> *Cal. Clois.* 1374-7, pp. 121-2.

<sup>68</sup> The Aylesford drawing, c. 1820, shows the east wall finished, at the height of the base of the finials, with a straight parapet, supporting a plain stone cross in the centre, the low-pitched roof rising behind the parapet.

defaced. The three-light tracery window in the west wall is modern. The use of rubble for this bay is obviously contemporary with the rest of the aisle, it also applies to the west wall and the west bay of the north arcade. The clearstory on this side has no parapet, but an eaves-gutter, to the low-pitched nave roof, and it is lighted by four two-light square-headed windows. The south aisle has a low parapet with a string-course at its base, which is raised over the aisle windows to form hood-mouldings. It is built of sandstone ashlar, with a moulded plinth and buttresses with gabled heads. There are three windows of two trefoil lights, with flat heads, in the south wall and one in each of the east and west walls, all dating from 1677 except that in the east wall, which is a modern replica. The clearstory has a low plain parapet with a string-course at its base raised

of a canopy. The north side is plain, but the south has three loop lights to the tower staircase, and a large sundial painted on the wall of the second stage; the east side has a clock dial in the second stage with a small square window below. On all faces of the belfry there are two windows close together, each of two trefoil lights with four-centred heads set in deep splay, the lower part of each light is panelled in stone with louvres above.

The chancel (51 ft. by 17 ft.), entirely rebuilt in 1677, is probably much longer than its 13th-century predecessor, of which no trace remains. The walls are plastered and the floor paved with red and yellow brick, the choir portion with modern tiles surrounding memorial slabs of the 17th and 18th centuries; there are two steps to the choir and two to the altar, which is



PLAN OF LEAMINGTON HASTINGS CHURCH

as a hood-moulding to the four flat-headed windows, each of two round-headed lights. The south door has a pointed arch; the porch is divided by a rough, pointed arch, and beyond this is the 18th-century addition with a pointed arch entrance of two chamfers, perhaps re-used. It is flanked by buttresses and has a tiled roof. In the apex of the gable there is a tablet with the date 1703 and the names of two churchwardens.

The tower, built of red sandstone ashlar and dating from the end of the 14th century, is in three stages with angle buttresses at each corner rising in six weathered stages to the string-course at the base of the embattled parapet, which has shields in the merlons, crocketed finials at the angles, and gargoyles in the centre of each face. The west door has a segmental-pointed arch with a moulded splay continuous down the jambs, flanked by small pilasters with crocketed finials and surmounted by an ogee crocketed label with a foliated finial; above this there is a three-light plain tracery window in a deep splay with a four-centred arch and hood-mouldings with grotesque head-stops; the tracery is modern but the head and jambs are original. Over this window there is an empty niche with the remains

of modern oak with a carved panel representing the Lord's Supper. The roof, which is of the king-post type, is modern, but some of the 17th-century timbers have been re-used. Opposite the north door there is a pointed arch recess which may have been intended for a south door and not completed. On the south wall there is a large mural monument of black and white marble with the busts of a knight and his wife on a shelf on which there are also two skulls; this is to Sir Thomas Trevor, bart., died 1676, and Mary his wife, died 1695; by the side hang a helmet and gauntlet. On the north side there is another large marble mural monument, with the bust of a knight, to Sir Thomas Trevor, 'One of the Barons of ye King's Exchequer and Lord of this Mannour', died St. Thomas's Day, 1654; by the side are hung a helmet, sword, and gauntlet. In the recess on the south side there is a white marble monument to John Allington, the vicar who was responsible for the complete restoration of the church, died 1682. On each side of the chancel are marble tablets to members of the Wheler family who died during the 17th century.

The nave (56 ft. by 24 ft.) has a modern red tiled

## A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

floor, with wood blocks under the seating, the walls unplastered, and its old timber roof concealed by a modern matchboarded ceiling. The west bay of the north arcade is screened off with a 17th-century oak screen with carved panels. The south arcade, of five bays, has pointed arches of two played orders supported on octagonal pillars with moulded capitals and bases, the latter resting on low square plinths with chamfered corners; the moulded capital to the east respond, which has a row of nail-heads in a hollow moulding, has been restored. The first three bays are contemporary with the nave, the two other bays were added early in the 14th century. The north arcade has four bays of similar detail to those on the south side, the east bay opened into a chapel built late in the 13th century and embodied in the arcade when the north aisle was erected late in the 14th century. The chancel arch and its responds have been replaced by a modern segmental arch, concealed by a modern oak panelled and traceried screen resting on carved stone corbels. The tower arch is pointed, with two played orders to the nave and three to the tower, the inner order supported on responds with moulded caps and the outer continued down to played bases and on the tower side the third splay dies out on the walls.

The north aisle (57 ft. 5 in. by 11 ft. 5 in.) is paved with modern tiles and has a low-pitched roof dating from the 17th century, the beams supported by carved brackets resting on stone corbels. Against the east respond of the arcade there is a narrow doorway, with a four-centred head, to a blocked staircase which gave access to the rood loft; it still retains its iron hinge-pins. In the east bay there is an altar table, with turned legs, dating from the 18th century. The pointed rear-arch of the north door and its label with head-stops are formed with plaster.

The south aisle (57 ft. by 11 ft. 6 in.) has a floor and roof similar to the north. The east bay forms the organ chamber and the west bay is screened off as an additional vestry. The south door has a plaster rear-arch similar to the north, but above it, a little to the west, is a blocked semicircular arch, probably the rear-arch of the 13th-century doorway.

The tower (12 ft. by 11 ft. 9 in.) is paved with modern tiles and the walls are unplastered. The south-west corner is splayed for the doorway to the tower stair, which has a four-centred head of one splay. In the belfry there are corbels for an octagonal spire which either was never built or has been destroyed. In the west window there are a number of coats of arms of Trevor and Wheler and their alliances.

The hexagonal sandstone font stands at the west end of the nave and beneath the rim moulding, on each face, there is an angel with outstretched wings holding a plain shield; the stem is also hexagonal, each face having two trefoiled panels; the base and step are modern. The pulpit on the north side of the chancel arch is octagonal with alternate long and short sides. It is of oak with carved trefoils, quatrefoils and similar work of varying detail, with linenfold panels in later framing. The carving dates from the

end of the 16th century. The seating throughout is modern.

The church plate includes: a large silver chalice and two patens engraved with the Trevor crest and an inscription recording their gift by Sir Thomas Trevor, bart., in 1633; a large silver flagon, and another of pewter, both given in 1699 by William Binckes, vicar.

Of the five bells, nos. 1 and 2 are by G. & G. Mears, 1821; the other three by Hugh Watts, 1620, 1631, and 1615 respectively.<sup>69</sup>

The registers begin in 1559.

There was a priest here in 1086,<sup>70</sup> *ADFOVSON* and the church was given to Nostell priory (Yorks.) by Aytrop Hastang in the reign of Henry I,<sup>71</sup> confirmed in 1222 by Robert Hastang.<sup>72</sup> The appropriation took place in 1232, in the episcopate of Bishop Stevensby, when the vicarage was charged with annual pensions of 15 marks to the canons of Nostell and a similar sum to the chapter of Lichfield.<sup>73</sup> The value in 1291 was £6 13s. 4d. in addition to these pensions,<sup>74</sup> and in 1535 £20, plus £20 paid in pensions to Nostell and 9s. 4d. for procurations and synodals.<sup>75</sup>

The first post-Reformation presentation (1558) was made by William Hygden, who had been granted it by the Prior of Nostell before the Dissolution.<sup>76</sup> The advowson was granted in 1599-1600 to Richard Locksmith,<sup>77</sup> and Jane Locksmith widow presented in 1619.<sup>78</sup> From 1646, when it was in the hands of the Trevors, the advowson has descended with the manor, except in 1683 when a presentation was made by Samuel Fortrey, the second Sir Thomas Trevor's father-in-law, and others.<sup>79</sup>

Gilbert Walden, the intruded Cromwellian minister, was in trouble both with his predecessor John Lee, sequestered in 1649 for 'drunkenness, swearing and malignancy', who had brought a suit against him and detained his income,<sup>80</sup> and with his successor Tristram Sugge, appointed by Sir Thomas Trevor at the Restoration, who prayed the House of Lords for Walden's removal, supported by a petition of the inhabitants.<sup>81</sup>

A sum of £50 from the rectory was assigned in 1655 for the augmentation of the vicarage of Winchcombe (Glos.).<sup>82</sup>

Humphrey Davis's Almshouse, Dame *CHARITIES* Dorothy Wheler's Almshouse, and The Poor's Land (exclusive of the Poor's Land Educational Foundation), formerly administered together under the title of the United Charities pursuant to a scheme of the Charity Commissioners of 5 December 1893 as varied by a scheme of the said Commissioners dated 20 January 1905, are now regulated by schemes of the said Commissioners dated 26 August 1910 and 3 April 1925 under the title of the Consolidated Charities. The schemes appoint a body of trustees to administer the charities, of which the annual income amounts to £443 approximately.

William Goode by will proved on 29 December

<sup>69</sup> Tilley and Walters, *Church Bells of Warwick*, 182.

<sup>70</sup> *F.C.H. Warwick*, i, 334.

<sup>71</sup> Dugd. *Mon.* (ed. Calvey), vi, 93. A chest belonging to the younger Aytrop was kept in Leamington Church, where it was broken into and jewels, including his seal, stolen: *Roll of Justices in Eyre* in . . .

*Warw.* (Selden Soc.), no. 592.

<sup>72</sup> *Fest. of E.* (Dugd. Soc. xi), 309. See also *Cal. Chart.* R. ii, 234.

<sup>73</sup> Dugd. 318; *Magn. Reg. Alb.* (Wm. Salt Soc.), 470.

<sup>74</sup> *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 242.

<sup>75</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 62.

<sup>76</sup> Dugd. 319.

<sup>77</sup> Pat. 42 Eliz. pt. 30.

<sup>78</sup> Inst. Bks. P.R.O.

<sup>79</sup> *Ibid.*; G. E. C. *Compl. Baronetage*, ii, 130.

<sup>80</sup> *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1655, p. 175.

<sup>81</sup> *Hist. MSS. Comm.* 7th Rep. 114.

<sup>82</sup> *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1655-6, p. 70.



1841 bequeathed to the clergyman, churchwardens, and overseers of Leamington Hastings £100, the interest to be expended in bread to be distributed on the first Sunday in April amongst the poor inhabitants of the parish. The annual income of the charity amounts to £2 13s. 4d.

## THE BOROUGH OF LEAMINGTON SPA

Acreage: (old parish) 1,595; (borough) 2,833.

The parish of Leamington lies on either side of the River Leam, which crosses it from east to west, in flatish country, mostly at levels between 160 ft. and 200 ft., but rising to just over 300 ft. on the Campion Hills at its north-east boundary. It was known as Leamington Priors from the fact of its manor being held by the Priory of Kenilworth, in distinction from the other Warwickshire village of Leamington Hastings. Until late in the 18th century it was a place of little importance. The Hearth Tax of 1663 names 29 householders with 49 hearths liable to the tax, and 17 households of one hearth each who were exempt, giving an estimated total population of 230.<sup>1</sup> In 1730 there were only 45 families,<sup>2</sup> and even in 1801 the census showed no more than 67 houses and a population of 315. By that time, however, Leamington had entered upon its career as a spa and it developed with increasing rapidity, the population of the parish in 1851 being 15,724, and that of the present borough well over 35,000.

Camden in 1586 and Dugdale in 1656 speak of a spring of salt water—the last-named adding that 'the inhabitants use it for seasoning meat'. Fuller in 1662 refers to two springs, one salt and one fresh, and Thomas, in his edition of Dugdale (1730), adds that strangers use it as 'a purging water' with success. The original, or old well, is situated west of the church and in 1803 a small stone building was erected over it by the 4th Earl of Aylesford, then lord of the manor. It was demolished in 1813 and the present stone building put up in its place; this was altered in 1890.<sup>3</sup> It was not until after the middle of the 18th century that the qualities of the water began to attract the notice of medical men,<sup>4</sup> from Dr. Allen (1788) and Dr. Lambe (1794)<sup>5</sup> down to Sir Andrew Clarke (1890),<sup>6</sup> but the establishment of Leamington as a fashionable spa was largely due to the enterprise of two village worthies, Benjamin Satchwell, a local shoemaker, and William Abbots, landlord of the Dog Inn. In 1784 Satchwell discovered a second saline spring on land belonging to Abbots. Baths were opened by Abbots<sup>7</sup> in connexion with the spring in 1786, and invalids began to resort here. In the ensuing years other springs were discovered, more baths were opened, and by the end of the century it was claimed that Leamington waters possessed as many valuable properties as Cheltenham,<sup>8</sup> which was then in high reputation.

Seven springs at least have been found,<sup>9</sup> and the

William Smith. This parish participates in the charity of William Smith and receives 4s. per annum which, in accordance with the terms of the bequest is required to be distributed in bread to the poorest people of the parish. For particulars of the charity see under parish of Birdingbury.

waters are natural saline of the muriated sulphate variety, very like those found at some of the continental spas. Their source is the saliferous marls which form part of the lower keuper beds of the red sandstone upon which Leamington is built.<sup>10</sup> Among medical men who contributed to the prosperity and growth of Leamington an outstanding name is that of Henry Jephson, M.D. (1798–1878), whose successful treatment of patients through the medium of the waters brought increased fame to the town.

The Pump Room was built by a syndicate and opened in 1814.<sup>11</sup> It was purchased therefrom by the Hon. Charles Bertie Percy of Guy's Cliffe about 1848 and in 1861 he sold the property to the Leamington Royal Pump Room Company<sup>12</sup> from whom the local Board of Health bought it six years later.<sup>13</sup> It now belongs to the Corporation. During last century, particularly its first half, Leamington was patronized by royalty and many notable people. Princess Victoria visited the town in 1830 and, when queen, she paid her second visit in 1858. As a special mark of her favour in 1838 she authorized the town to style itself Royal Leamington Spa. The small private baths gradually passed out of use and the Royal Baths and Pump Room, standing in attractively laid-out gardens, were added to from time to time and practically rebuilt in 1926.

In the Inclosure Act of 1767 the lands to be inclosed are estimated to be 990 acres, and they were situated south and west of the River Leam, extending to the Whitmarsh and Radford boundaries.<sup>14</sup> Not all of this was open common fields, common meadows, and commonable lands, and the allotments made at the Award in the following year were as follows: The Earl of Aylesford as lord of the manor 21 a. 3 r. 3 p.; John Willes and his successors the vicars of Leamington in discharge of the glebe lands and right of common belonging to the vicarage, and the small tithes 29 a. 2 r. 38 p., also the vicarage house in Church Street with some ancient messuages and gardens; Matthew Wise in lieu of great tithes 472 a. 2 r. 36 p.; Mrs. Ann Willes, widow of Edward Willes, 194 a. 1 r. 34 p.; John Lawrence 75 a. 3 r. 16 p.; Richard Lyndon 67 a. 3 r. 7 p.; Thos. Aston 1 a. 1 r. 10 p.; Trustees of Barford Charity 8 a. 1 r. 5 p. Total 871 a. 3 r. 29 p.

A plan of 1783<sup>15</sup> shows that the whole of the village with its church and the original well nearby, a mill, two inns, the stocks and pound,<sup>16</sup> stood on the south

<sup>1</sup> T. B. Dudley, *A Complete History of Leamington Spa* (1901), 47.

<sup>2</sup> Dugd. 368.

<sup>3</sup> Ribton-Turner, *Shakespeare's Land*, 2. It was purchased and restored by Ald. W. Davis and his wife, 1923.

<sup>4</sup> It may be doubted if they would have supported the popular belief that the waters were a cure for hydrophobia: ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Merridew's *Guide* (1837), 13.

<sup>6</sup> Ribton-Turner, op. cit. 4.

<sup>7</sup> *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

<sup>8</sup> *Warwickshire*, pub. by Turner, Coventry, c. 1825, p. 55.

<sup>9</sup> West, *Directory of Warwick* (1830), 708–9.

<sup>10</sup> *Health Resorts of the British Islands* (1912), 74.

<sup>11</sup> H. G. Clarke, *Royal Leamington Spa* (1947), 10 (citing *Warwick Advertiser*, 2 July 1814).

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.* 21 (citing *Leamington Courier*, 13 July 1860 and later).

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.* 117.

<sup>14</sup> Extracts from these documents, now at Shire Hall, made by Dudley, op. cit. pp. 50–5.

<sup>15</sup> Plan, Leam. Pub. Lib.

<sup>16</sup> The stocks and pound stood near the present Police Station in High Street. In 1825 the inhabitants were indicted for not setting up a pair of stocks, which had evidently become decayed. They were discharged in the following year: Quarter Sessions Records, Mids. 1825; Epiph. 1826.

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

bank of the Leam. By 1818<sup>17</sup> it had grown considerably, the main streets being the present Bath Street, Clemens Street, and High Street. The Warwick-Napton Canal had been made, and Ranelagh Gardens on its south bank was a prominent feature. North of the river the 'new town' was being developed on a farm of 65 acres which was sold for building purposes at an average of 5,000 guineas an acre.<sup>18</sup> Upon this the west side of the Parade (then Union Parade) and the Regent Hotel on the east side had been erected. Houses had been built in the Upper Parade (then Upper Union Parade) on both sides to about as far up as the present Post Office, and some in Regent Street (then Cross Street), where 1833 saw the erection of the Royal Assembly Rooms.<sup>19</sup> A plan of 1822<sup>20</sup> shows the new town laid out for building up to Warwick Street, and by 1834<sup>21</sup> the avenues between that street and the present Lillington Avenue—namely: Clarendon Avenue, Beauchamp Avenue, and Binswood Avenue—had been laid out and houses had been built or were in course of erection.<sup>22</sup> Regent Grove, Hamilton Terrace, and Holly Walk<sup>23</sup> had been laid out, and mainly built upon, Newbold Terrace was partly completed. Other roads east of Newbold Road (now Willes Road) were laid out but not yet built upon. South of the river, Priory Terrace, Leam Terrace, Russell Terrace, Radford Road, and some adjacent streets had mainly been built upon. In 1840 the Victoria Bridge, connecting the old and new towns, replaced an old, narrow, and inconvenient bridge. Further development continued to take place and Leamington Spa is now a well-planned and attractive town, with wide roads planted with trees, and many pleasant houses of the Regency and early Victorian periods, a notable feature of the earlier houses being their fine cast iron balconies of local make. In recent years, in addition to a spa and health resort it has become increasingly a place of residence for those employed in Coventry, and to a lesser extent in Birmingham.

The War Memorial in Euston Place, erected in 1922, is a bronze figure of a British soldier in khaki on a pedestal of Cornish granite, bearing the names of the men of Leamington who fell in the Great War, 1914-18.

Newbold Comyn is situated on the east side of Leamington and north of the river Leam. Mr. Edward Willes inherited the family estates on the death of his father, the Rev. Edward Willes, in 1820, when Leamington was rapidly being developed, and not long afterwards he began to lay out his property in Leamington and Newbold Comyn to the best advantage of the town. He gave much land for beautifying it including, in 1836, the Newbold Gardens.<sup>24</sup> In 1845-6, as a testimonial to Dr. Henry Jephson, a fund was raised for altering and much improving these gardens

and putting up a statue<sup>25</sup> there to the doctor. This was accordingly carried out, and at the same time the name was changed to the 'Jephson Gardens'. There is an obelisk here, erected in 1875, recording Mr. Willes's generous gift. The Mill Gardens were purchased in 1898. On the western edge of the borough Victoria Park, adjoining the new River Walk, forms a large open space for sport and recreation.

The oldest hotel is the Bath Hotel, built by William Abbotts in, or soon after, 1786.<sup>26</sup> This was followed by the 'Crown', which in 1812 was used as the vicarage and occupied by the Rev. J. Wise, M.A., but became an inn in 1814.<sup>27</sup> The 'Regent' was built in 1818-19 and opened in the latter year. It was called Williams's Hotel, after the name of the first proprietor, but changed to the Regent Hotel, a little after it was opened, in honour of the Prince Regent.<sup>28</sup> The Manor House Hotel includes the old manor-house,<sup>29</sup> a mid-18th-century building. It was first used as an hotel in 1847 and afterwards became a school, but was again converted into an hotel after being rebuilt.<sup>30</sup> The Clarendon Hotel was built in 1830.

The old theatre opposite the Bath Hotel was built in 1813 by John Simms,<sup>31</sup> but was closed in 1833. Many well-known actors appeared here, including Edmund Kean and William Macready. In 1849 the Congregational Chapel in Clemens Street was turned into a theatre, and so continued until 1866, when it, too, was closed.<sup>32</sup> There was then no theatre until the Theatre Royal was built in Holly Walk in 1882 at a cost of about £10,000. This, after a chequered experience, was converted into a cinema in 1935. There now only remains the Loft Theatre of Amateurs.

Robert William Elliston, the famous actor, had a short lease of the theatre, and his second son Henry Twisleton Elliston spent most of his life in Leamington. He was organist at the parish church, founded a choral society, and converted the Assembly Rooms in Bath Street into the Royal Music Hall. In 1863, the year before his death, he was appointed librarian of the Public Library, established in 1857.<sup>33</sup> Behind the Bath Street Assembly Rooms was the Picture Gallery and Library of James Bisset, himself artist, publisher, and writer of verse, an important, if eccentric, figure in the early days of the rise of Leamington, to which he gave useful publicity, and where he died in 1832.<sup>34</sup>

The stage coaches which connected Leamington with London, Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester, Oxford, Bath, Cheltenham, Coventry, Leicester, and neighbouring towns<sup>35</sup> ceased to run about 1839, and the first railway line to Leamington came from Coventry. It was built by a private company and completed in 1844, the Leamington terminus later becoming Milverton Station. The undertaking was purchased by the L. & N.W. Railway, who extended the line to Rugby,

<sup>17</sup> Plan, Leam. Pub. Lib.

<sup>18</sup> Clarke, op. cit., citing *Leamington Courier*, 1810.

<sup>19</sup> White, *Directory of Warwick*, (1850), 617.

<sup>20</sup> Plan in possession of Major E. G. Tibbits.

<sup>21</sup> Plan, Leam. Pub. Lib. All the plans mentioned here are illustrated in Clarke, op. cit.

<sup>22</sup> An undated plan shows that the layout of this northern part of the town was prepared by P. F. Robinson, architect, of London (Leam. Pub. Lib.).

<sup>23</sup> Formerly the drive to Newbold

Comyn. Dickens, in *Dombey and Son*, lays the scene of the first meeting between Mr. Carker and Edith Granger in Holly Walk.

<sup>24</sup> Willes MS.; Plans of 1822, 1834. (See n. 20, 21.)

<sup>25</sup> By Peter Hollins of Birmingham.

<sup>26</sup> Ribton-Turner, op. cit. 9.

<sup>27</sup> Clarke, op. cit. 31.

<sup>28</sup> Dudley, op. cit. 135-6.

<sup>29</sup> Matthew Wise (1768-1823), who owned a considerable area of land in Leamington, lived here, but after building Shrubland Hall, south-west of the town, he removed there.

<sup>30</sup> Ribton-Turner, op. cit. 9. A plaque in the hotel grounds reads: 'On this lawn the first lawn tennis club in the world was founded in 1892.'

<sup>31</sup> In 1815 Simms, described as 'the manager of a company of comedians and the proprietor of the theatre', was granted a licence to perform here from 10 July for 4 months, but not exceeding 60 days in the whole: *Quarter Sessions Recs. Mids. 1815*.

<sup>32</sup> Dudley, op. cit. 126-7, 450.

<sup>33</sup> *Dict. Nat. Hist.* <sup>34</sup> *Ibid.* <sup>35</sup> Cary, *New Itinerary of the Great Roads* (9th ed.), 1821; *Merridew's Guide* (1837), 112-14.



LEAMINGTON SPA: ROYAL PUMP ROOM AND BATHS

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LEAMINGTON SPA: EUSTON PLACE AND NEWBOLD TERRACE

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which was completed in 1851. The G.W. Railway linking Leamington direct with Birmingham and Oxford was opened in 1852.<sup>36</sup>

The Gas Company was established here in 1819.<sup>37</sup> With the rapid development of the town, the Warwick & Leamington Bank was founded in 1834, and the Leamington Priors & Warwickshire Bank in 1835. The former was taken over by Lloyds Bank in 1866, and the latter by the Midland Bank in 1889. Greenways, a Warwick bank, opened a branch here in 1863, but the bank failed in 1887, causing much distress locally. What remained of the business was afterwards purchased by the Metropolitan Bank, now the Midland Bank.<sup>38</sup>

The town has important industries. Flavel's, manufacturers of stoves, ranges, &c., was for long the only large factory, but in recent years Lockheed's Hydraulic Brake Co., and the Imperial Foundry Co. (Ford Motor Co.), makers of agricultural machines and implements, have both been manufacturing on a large scale and employing many workers. Henry Griffith & Sons have a factory for the manufacture of jewellery. All these are carried on at the lower end of the town, away from the residential part. There are also many small firms engaged in general engineering of various kinds.<sup>39</sup> The stock market formerly held here was transferred to Warwick on 6 January 1937.

In 1828 the town acquired its own newspaper by the publication of *The Leamington Spa Courier and Warwickshire Standard*, and this was soon followed by *The Leamington Chronicle*.<sup>40</sup>

The first schools, for infants, were established in 1834 and 1835.<sup>41</sup> Others followed rapidly, so that by 1850<sup>42</sup> there were at least ten, of various types and denominations, including Leamington College, which was founded in 1844 as a proprietary college in the former Easton Terrace, and transferred to the present Tudor-style buildings in Binswood Avenue in 1848, then recently erected. A few years later it was changed from a proprietary into a public school.<sup>43</sup> It did good work, but was handicapped from the start by lack of funds, and being unable to carry on was closed in 1902.<sup>44</sup> From 1903 until the First World War it was occupied by the Society of the Sacred Heart, and in 1922 the secondary school for boys, adjoining the Free Library, was removed here<sup>45</sup> and is prospering as Leamington College. Sir Frank Whittle, inventor of the jet-propulsion engine, was educated here.

Leamington in its earlier days was governed by the Parish Committee, which was the outcome of the Vestry, but by an Act of 1825 Paving,

Lighting, and Improvement Commissioners were authorized to deal with the town's affairs.<sup>46</sup> This system was superseded by the local Board of Health in 1852<sup>47</sup> which in turn was followed by the Incorporation of the town in 1875. In 1890 the borough was extended to include the urban portions of Lillington and Milverton, and in 1902 a great part of the civil parish of Lillington, including the village, and the parish of New Milverton were combined with Leamington in one civil parish of Leamington Spa. The Corporation now consists of a mayor, 8 aldermen, and 24 councillors, representing the four wards into which the borough is divided.

The old Town Hall in High Street (now the Police Station) was built in 1831<sup>48</sup> and the new Town Hall on the Parade in 1884.

In 1086 Roger de Montgomery, Earl of *MANORS* Shrewsbury, held in demesne *LEAMINGTON*, rated at 2 hides and including 2 mills worth 24s. and 26 acres of meadow. It had been held of Edward the Confessor by 'Olwin'<sup>49</sup>—evidently identical with the 'Ulwin', or Wulfwine, who had held Newbold Comyn (see below). Earl Roger's estates after his death escheated to the Crown through the rebellion of his son Robert of Bellesme; the overlordship of Leamington was apparently given to the Bishop of Chester and the fee to Geoffrey de Clinton, chamberlain to Henry I and founder of Kenilworth Priory. Geoffrey gave to Gilbert 'nutricius' [? Norreys] of Warwick the manor of Leamington to hold by service of half a knight's fee; which manor Ralph de Baleri, who married the daughter of Nicholas the reeve (*prepositus*),<sup>50</sup> and Azor of Warwick and his nephews Osbert and Richer had been holding of Geoffrey; Azor and his nephews should in future hold of Gilbert, who should have in demesne the share of Ralph de Baleri, to whom Geoffrey would give equivalent land in exchange. If the Bishop of Chester, of whose fee Geoffrey held the manor, levied aid or scutage, Gilbert should pay half and Geoffrey the other half.<sup>51</sup> The proposed exchange may not have been made, as Ralph de Valeri (*sic*), at the request of Gilbert 'nutricius', gave land in Leamington to Kenilworth Priory.<sup>52</sup> Gilbert also gave to the priory, with the consent of the younger Geoffrey de Clinton, his land here with the church and mills, except the part of the manor held of him by Azor and his nephews.<sup>53</sup> The overlordship passed in some way from the bishop to the Prior of Coventry, who held the half-fee in 1236<sup>54</sup> and 1242,<sup>55</sup> his tenant at the latter date being the Prior of Kenilworth,<sup>56</sup> while in 1236 William de Leminton and Simon de Berceston are recorded as tenants. William de Leminton died in or before 1247, leaving a widow Lucy and three daughters, Felice wife of William de Wyleby, Maud wife of Ralph Chaterre, and Margery wife of John Perdriz, who conveyed their shares of their father's property, including a moiety of a mill, to the Prior of Kenilworth.<sup>57</sup> In 1291 the canons of Kenilworth had 2 yardlands, worth 12s., in demesne, the rents of the



BOROUGH OF LEAMINGTON. Party fessewise argent and/or a lion with forked tail vert over all a chevron azure and in chief three molets gules all within a border azure charged with eight fleurs de lysor.

<sup>36</sup> Ward Lock's *Guide* (1880), 9; Dudley, op. cit. 339-40.

<sup>37</sup> Clarke, op. cit., citing *Warwick Advertiser*, 12 June 1819.

<sup>38</sup> Information about these banks from the Manager, Lloyds Bank, and the Manager, Midland Bank, 126 Parade.

<sup>39</sup> Information about the industries from the Borough Engineer.

<sup>40</sup> Merriwell's *Guide* (1837), 58.

<sup>41</sup> *Ibid.* 44.

<sup>42</sup> White, *Directory of Warwick*, (1857), 610-17.

<sup>43</sup> Dudley, op. cit. 326-7.

<sup>44</sup> *Ibid.* 328.

<sup>45</sup> Clarke, op. cit. 101.

<sup>46</sup> West, *Directory of Warwick*, (1830), iv.

<sup>47</sup> Kelly's *Directory* (1872).

<sup>48</sup> Ribton-Turner, op. cit. 10.

<sup>49</sup> *P.C.H. Warwick*, i, 307.

<sup>50</sup> This may have been the Nicholas who was farming the lands of Countess Godiva

in 1086: *ibid.* 310.

<sup>51</sup> Harl. MS. 3650, fol. 69.

<sup>52</sup> *Ibid.* 43.

<sup>53</sup> *Ibid.* 3 v.

<sup>54</sup> *Bk. of Fees*, 583.

<sup>55</sup> *Ibid.* 954.

<sup>56</sup> The Kenilworth tenure of the estates was confirmed by William, Prior of Coventry, in 1258: *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xi), 831.

<sup>57</sup> *Ibid.* 649, 670.

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

remainder of their land (about 18 yardlands in 1279)<sup>58</sup> producing £4 6s. 8d., pleas of court 6s., fishing rights 4s., and 1½ mills £1 10s.,<sup>59</sup> the other half of the second mill being held by freeholders.<sup>60</sup> At the time of the Dissolution the Kenilworth estates yielded about £10 yearly, in addition to rents of 24s. for the water-mill and 13s. 4d. for fishery in the Leam.<sup>61</sup>

The manor was granted in 1564 to Ambrose Dudley, Earl of Warwick, in tail male,<sup>62</sup> but on his death without issue in 1590 reverted to the Crown.

In 1629 John Camden was lord of the manor,<sup>63</sup> and in 1631 he and Alice his wife and Isabel Camden, widow, conveyed it to Sir William Browne.<sup>64</sup> He died in 1637 seised of the manor, with view of frank-pledge, and a water-mill, which had been settled in the previous year<sup>65</sup> on the marriage of his eldest son George Browne with Margaret, one daughter of Sir Edward Littleton.<sup>66</sup> Sir George died in 1660, when the manor passed with Radford Semele (q.v.) to his relative Elizabeth wife of Sir William Throckmorton,<sup>67</sup> and they were



FINCH, Earl of Aylesford. *Argent a chevron between three griffons passant table.*

At some date between 1066 and 1086 'Ulwin', or Wulfwine, who held NEWBOLD under Edward the Confessor, became a monk at Malmesbury Abbey and gave his estate to the monastery.<sup>72</sup> The vill was accordingly entered in Domesday Book as the land of the Abbey of Malmesbury, being assessed at 3 hides and valued at 50s., including a mill worth 8s.<sup>73</sup> The subsequent history of the manor down to 1285 was set out in the course of a lawsuit over rights of wardship.<sup>74</sup> The abbey granted the land to Ralph the sheriff (presumably of Wiltshire) to hold by homage, fealty, suit of court, and a rent of 40s. to the chamberlain of the monastery. Ralph's son Wybert had a son Antelin,<sup>75</sup> who died while his daughter and heir Joan was a child. She was for 14 years a ward of the abbot, who then granted her wardship to Elias Comyn, who married her. They had two sons, Nicholas and John Comyn, and when John son of Nicholas died young, the manor of NEWBOLD COMYN passed to his uncle, the elder John. He had a son John, who died in 1278,<sup>76</sup> leaving a young son John, whose mother Mabel disputed his

wardship with the Abbot of Malmesbury. The decision, given in 1285, was in favour of the abbot, who in 1288 sold to Mabel the right of bestowing her son in marriage.<sup>77</sup> The John Comyn who was removed from the office of collector in 1340 as unable to work<sup>78</sup> and died before 1341<sup>79</sup> was probably son of the John whose wardship was disputed. His son John<sup>80</sup> died in 1370 leaving a widow Annabel and three daughters, Milcent, Joan, and Ellen.<sup>81</sup> Milcent married William de Aghton, and conveyed her share to her son Hugh in 1410.<sup>82</sup> Ellen and her husband James Dyneley in 1408 conveyed their quarter of the manor to Rowland Dyneley, or Dyneley,<sup>83</sup> and he probably acquired the Aghton share, as in 1420 Robert Dyneley and Joan his wife conveyed a moiety of the manor to Thomas Gower of Woodhall (Worcs.).<sup>84</sup> Richard and John Gower were dealing with a water-mill and fishing rights in the Leam in 1574,<sup>85</sup> and in 1611 John Gower and his son William sold their share of the manor to Sir Clement Fisher of Packington,<sup>86</sup> with which manor<sup>87</sup> it descended, passing in 1729 to Mary, Countess of Aylesford, daughter of the third Sir Clement. Since that date the estate has been held by the Earls of Aylesford, but any manorial rights have lapsed.<sup>88</sup>

Joan, the second daughter of John Comyn, married John Faryngton, and in 1402 they settled a quarter of the manor of Newbold Comyn on themselves, with remainder to their son Christopher.<sup>89</sup> The latter, with his wife Alice, sold it in 1436 to Thomas Hugford.<sup>90</sup> On the death of John Hugford in December 1484 he was found seised of lands in Newbold Comyn, stated in round figures as 100 acres of arable, 40 of pasture, and 24 of meadow, which were said to be held of the Honor of Winchester as ½ knight's fee.<sup>91</sup> These passed to John Beaufort, then aged 2, son of his eldest daughter Joan, and descended in the Beaufort family with the manor of Emscote (q.v.).

The Abbey of Stoneleigh had lands in the parish, of which at the time of the Dissolution part was leased to the monastery of Kenilworth for 33s. 4d. and the remainder, which was in Newbold Comyn, was farmed for £4.<sup>92</sup> A grant of two closes of pasture in Leamington, late of Stoneleigh Abbey, was made in 1538 to James Cruce,<sup>93</sup> who seems also to have acquired the Newbold estate and to have sold the whole in the following year to William Murcott and (his son-in-law) Richard Willes.<sup>94</sup> Murcott died in 1552, seised of a capital messuage and tenements in Leamington,<sup>95</sup> and Willes at his death in 1564 was seised



WILLES. *Argent a chevron table between three molets gules.*

<sup>58</sup> Dugd. 367.

<sup>59</sup> *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 254.

<sup>60</sup> *Exch. K.R. Misc. Bks.* 15, fol. 30v.

<sup>61</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 64-5; *Mon. Angl.* vi, 225; *Mon. Bailiffs' Accts.*

(Dugd. Soc.), 43. <sup>62</sup> Pat. 6 Eliz. pt. 4.

<sup>63</sup> *Warw. Co. Rec.* i, 79.

<sup>64</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Hil. 6 Chas. I.

<sup>65</sup> *Ibid.* Trin. 12 Chas. I.

<sup>66</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cccclxxxv, 198.

<sup>67</sup> Dugd. 363.

<sup>68</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Trin. 17 Chas. II.

<sup>69</sup> *Itin. of Warw.* 1682-3 (Hart. Soc.), 32.

<sup>70</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Hil. 4 Anne.

<sup>71</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations.

<sup>72</sup> *Reg. Malmes.* (Rolls Ser.), i, 250.

<sup>73</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* i, 306. Another 2

hides at 'Niwebold', held of the Count of

Meulan, has been identified with Newbold

Comyn (*ibid.* 117), but the history of the

estate makes this unlikely, especially as

the Malmesbury estate is several times

called 'the whole vill of Newbold' (*Reg.*

*Malmes.* i, 254; ii, 4).

<sup>74</sup> *Reg. Malmes.* i, 252-9.

<sup>75</sup> This, or Ancelin (*ibid.* ii, 4, 5), seems

to be correct rather than 'Antelm'.

<sup>76</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ii, 331.

<sup>77</sup> *Reg. Malmes.* i, 260.

<sup>78</sup> *Cal. Fine R.* v, 158.

<sup>79</sup> *V.C.H. Worcs.* iii, 423.

<sup>80</sup> *Cal. Close*, 1341-3, p. 103.

<sup>81</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1373-4, p. 83.

<sup>82</sup> Dugd. 369.

<sup>83</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xviii), 2441.

<sup>84</sup> *Ibid.* 2519.

<sup>85</sup> Feet of F. Warw. East. 16 Eliz.

<sup>86</sup> Dugd. 369.

<sup>87</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* iv, 182.

<sup>88</sup> *Ex inf.* the present Earl of Aylesford.

<sup>89</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xviii), 2409.

<sup>90</sup> *Ibid.* 2590.

<sup>91</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII*, i, 27, 136.

<sup>92</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 68.

<sup>93</sup> *Mon. Angl.* vi, 450; *Mon. Bailiffs' Accts.*

(Dugd. Soc.), 7.

<sup>94</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xiii (1), 887 (12).

<sup>95</sup> Dugd. 369.

<sup>96</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), xevii, 126.

of some 100 acres of pasture in Newbold Comyn.<sup>96</sup> This estate, which was sometimes referred to as a manor, has remained in the family of Willes for 400 years, the present owner, William Willes, being tenth in direct descent from Richard.<sup>97</sup>

Thomas Prew, who married a daughter of Edward Willes, for some years before his death in 1747 was buying up property in Leamington,<sup>98</sup> and this passed to his elder daughter, and eventual sole heiress, Bridget, who married John Wise of the Priory, Warwick, and their descendants, who played a large part in the development of the new town.

The old parish church of *ALL SAINTS CHURCHES* was a small building, consisting of chancel and nave, apparently of the 13th century, with a west tower added in the 14th century, to which period also belonged a large three-light window in the centre of the south wall of the nave; there was also a south porch of 17th- or 18th-century date.<sup>99</sup> This was enlarged in 1816, 1824, 1829, 1832, and 1834.<sup>1</sup> The entire rebuilding of the church began in 1843<sup>2</sup> and was completed during the early years of the 20th century by the lengthening of the nave and the erection of a west tower. The present fabric consists of an apsidal chancel, north and south transepts with eastern aisles, clearstoried nave with aisles, south porch, and a baptistery and tower at the west end. It is ashlar-faced, and is built in a somewhat florid form of gothic. The tower is in four stages, surmounted by a pannelled parapet with a lofty crocketed pinnacle at each corner. There are some 18th-century mural tablets, preserved from the earlier church.

The five old bells were recast in 1826 by T. Mears, and three new ones added in 1901.

The communion plate includes a remarkable silver-gilt chalice, made at Dijon and dating about 1650-60, embossed with figure subjects; it is said to have belonged to the English chapel at Calais.<sup>3</sup>

The registers begin in 1702.

The church of *ST. ALBAN*, a chapel of ease to All Saints, stands at the corner of Warwick Street and Portland Street. It is of red brick with stone dressings, built in the Early English style in 1881, and has a lofty tower and copper-covered spire.

*CHRIST CHURCH*, in Clarendon Avenue, is a rectangular building of brick faced with cement, with aisles and a tower. It was designed by P. F. Robinson in a style alleged to be 'pure Saxon' and to 'produce a very imposing and solemn effect',<sup>4</sup> but less appreciatively called 'a pastry-cook imitation of the Norman style'.<sup>5</sup> It was built in 1825 as a proprietary 'Episcopal Chapel', with the remarkable feature of a charge for admission to services.<sup>6</sup> It is now attached to Holy Trinity.

*ST. MARY'S* Church, built in 1839 to serve a parish constituted in 1840, lies in the south-east of the town just off Radford Road. It is of brick, cemented, in the Decorated style and consists of chancel, aisled nave, and an embattled west tower which has on either side a porch containing stairs to the galleries.

*HOLY TRINITY*, in Beauchamp Square, was built

in 1847, though the parish which it now serves was not formed until 1899. It has been enlarged, particularly about 1920, and is now a stone building with chancel, transepts, nave, and a small bell-tower at the south-west.

*ST. PAUL'S*, in Leicester Street, serving a parish formed from that of St. Mary in 1878, was built by subscription in 1873-4. It is of brick with stone dressings, in the Geometrical style, and consists of a chancel with aisles, transepts, aisled nave, and a tower at the north-west with a lofty octagonal spire.

The parish of *ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST* was formed in 1875 and the church built in 1880-4. It lies in the south of the town, near the Tachbrook Road, and is of red brick, in the Early English style, consisting of apsidal chancel with north and south chapels, clearstoried nave with aisles, north-west porch, and a tower surmounted by a tall octagonal spire at the north-east end of the nave.

The Roman Catholics worshipped at first in a large room in Clemens Street, but in 1828 they built their own church in George Street, and in 1864 moved to the present St. Peter's Church in Dormer Place, completed in that year. This church was burnt down in 1883, except for the tower which had been put up in 1878, but was rebuilt in red brick with stone dressings in 1884.<sup>7</sup>

From at least as early as 1690 the Leamington Friends (or Quakers as they were called) attended the meeting at Warwick.<sup>8</sup>

In 1813 the Independents began worship in a room in Clemens Street, and three years later they built a chapel in this street,<sup>9</sup> but by 1836, further accommodation being necessary, some freehold land was secured in Spencer Street and a new chapel built upon it.<sup>10</sup> It is now known as the Congregational Chapel. In 1847 some of the members of this church felt that another chapel was needed for the growing upper part of the town and accordingly, in 1850, one was erected in Holly Walk.<sup>11</sup> This building became St. Luke's Episcopal Chapel in 1895, but it is now closed.

In 1829, not long after the Independents had discontinued the liturgical service of the Church of England at Clemens Street, a new chapel was built in Mill Street for those of the congregation who continued to adhere to that form of worship. It was subsequently leased to the Countess of Huntingdon's connexion and is now no longer used as a chapel.<sup>12</sup> In 1817 the Wesleyan Methodists established a place of worship in a loft in Barnacle's Yard, Satchwell Street, but shortly afterwards they removed to a small building in Brunswick Street, now no. 4.<sup>13</sup> They built their first chapel in Portland Street in 1825, which was closed in 1870 when the present Dale Street Church was opened.<sup>14</sup> The Methodists also have churches in Warwick Street and Radford Road. Leamington was originally in the Coventry Circuit of Ministers but its own Circuit was established in 1837.<sup>15</sup>

The Baptists, who at first worshipped with the other nonconformists in Clemens Street, began services of their own in a room in Grove Place about 1829, then moved to larger premises in Brunswick Street, and in

<sup>96</sup> Dugd. 369.

<sup>97</sup> For pedigree see Burke, *Landed Gentry* (1917).

<sup>98</sup> Add. MS. 29264, fol. 152.

<sup>99</sup> View in Aylesford Collection.

<sup>1</sup> Merridew's *Guide* (1837), 32-3.

<sup>2</sup> Ribton-Turner, op. cit. 1. <sup>3</sup> Ibid. 2.

<sup>4</sup> Merridew's *Guide*, 36.

<sup>5</sup> Ribton-Turner, op. cit. 7. This is hardly fair to the building, which its tower standing at the top of the Parade is an effective ornament to the town.

<sup>6</sup> Merridew's *Guide*, 36.

<sup>7</sup> Kelly, *Directory of Warw.* (1938).

<sup>8</sup> W. White, *Friends in Warw.* (1894),

112.

<sup>9</sup> *Independency in Warwickshire* by J. Sibree and M. Caston (1855), 295-7. Clemens Street Chapel became a theatre in 1849; revived for service 1866; closed 1900.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid. 301.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid. 306.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid. 308-9. <sup>13</sup> Dudley, op. cit. 128.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid. 131, 255-6. <sup>15</sup> Ibid. 254.

## A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

1830 built a new chapel in Guy Street. Two years later the ordinance of baptism was administered for the first time in Leamington, and it soon began to be felt that a more fitting place of worship was desirable. Accordingly the present Baptist Chapel in Warwick Street was erected.<sup>16</sup>

The Plymouth Brethren have a meeting place in Guy Street.

The parish church of Leamington **ADVOWNSONS** was originally a chapel of Leek

Wootton, with which church it was given to Kenilworth Priory by the younger Geoffrey de Clinton.<sup>17</sup> It figures in 1291 as a rectory appropriated to the priory and valued at £4, with an additional 20s. pension to Malmesbury Abbey,<sup>18</sup> presumably for the tithes of Newbold Comyn. In 1535 the endowment of the vicarage was £6 10s.,<sup>19</sup> including a payment of £1 13s. 4d. from Kenilworth,<sup>20</sup> and the rectory was farmed at £4.<sup>21</sup>

After the Dissolution the rectory and advowson came to the Crown, and subsequently followed the descent of the manor of Lillington (q.v.) in the families of Puckering and Wise until the death of H. E. Wise in 1923, when they passed to his niece Louisa Elizabeth wife of Robert Skirving, of Shrubland Hall, Leamington.<sup>22</sup> By her the advowson was conveyed to the Bishop of Coventry on 30 April 1942.

The vicarage of St. John the Baptist, serving an ecclesiastical parish formed in 1875, is in the patronage of the Bishop of Coventry. Those of St. Mary (1840), and St. Paul (1878) are in the gift of the Church Patronage Society.

Nomination to the perpetual curacy of Christ Church is in the hands of trustees.

The Warneford Leamington and **CHARITIES** South Warwickshire General Hospital and Bathing Institution was founded in 1832, largely by the munificence of the Rev. Dr. Warneford and his sister,<sup>23</sup> and has been added to at various times. A scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 7 September 1928 constitutes a body of governors and a committee for the management of the affairs of the charity, which affords medical and surgical aid and mineral water and bathing treatment to patients not otherwise able to obtain the same.

Dr. Samuel Wilson Warneford's Charity in connexion with the above-named hospital was founded by an indenture dated 20 May 1853, by which a sum of £10,000 stock was settled on trusts, the income to be applied to enable more persons to partake of the benefits of the hospital. The charity is regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 15 July 1927, which appoints a body of trustees to administer it. The annual income of the charity amounts to £450.

Edith Hook, by will dated 23 October 1928, gave to the vicar and churchwardens of Leamington £500, the income to increase the endowment of the living.

Elizabeth Mary Smith, by will dated 6 December 1922, bequeathed to the Parochial Church Council of All Saints, Leamington Priors, her shares in the Birmingham Railway Carriage & Wagon Company, the income to be applied in keeping the clock in the small clock tower of All Saints Church in working order, and

also in keeping the iron palisades surrounding the church and churchyard painted and in good repair.

Jane Bowie Good, by will dated 17 September 1937, bequeathed to the vicar and churchwardens of All Saints Church the sum of £500, the income to be applied for the benefit of the parish. The annual income of the charity amounts to £15.

Charity for Ecclesiastical Purposes. By a conveyance dated 14 August 1916 a mission hall and two cottages fronting to Sawtell Street were assured to trustees, to be used by the vicar of All Saints, Leamington Priors, for a number of Church of England purposes set out in the deed. The property was sold in 1939 and the proceeds of sale invested. The charity is now regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 8 May 1940 which appoints the vicar and churchwardens to be managing trustees and directs the income of the charity to be applied towards the maintenance of Urquhart Hall in the parish.

Georgiana Augusta Hook, by will dated 26 May 1888, gave £50 to the endowment fund of the Charitable Repository<sup>24</sup> at Leamington Priors.

Sarah Hitcham, by will dated 6 December 1888, gave £2,000, the income to be applied towards improving or increasing the endowment of the living of St. John's Church, Leamington.

Elizabeth Grew, by will dated 24 July 1862, gave to the churchwardens of St. Mary, Leamington Priors, £1,000, the income to be applied towards providing a curate for the church or in such other manner as the churchwardens should think fit for the benefit of the church. The charity is now regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 7 June 1889. The annual income of the charity amounts to £41 approximately.

John Hurley. By an order made by the High Court of Justice Chancery Division on 28 June 1901 it was directed that the balance of the sum representing one fourth share of the testator's personal estate given to the vicar and churchwardens of St. Paul's Church, Leamington, should be invested in the name of the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds and the income applied towards the expenses of such charitable objects or work in connexion with the Church of St. Paul, Leamington (including a Bible reader or mission nurse), as the vicar and churchwardens may determine. The annual income of the charity amounts to £7 10s. (approximately).

Parochial Buildings in Leicester Street. By an indenture dated 18 September 1886 certain land was conveyed to the vicar of St. Paul's, Leamington, for erecting thereon a mission house and parochial rooms. The buildings erected comprised a dwelling-house, parochial hall, and smaller rooms. The charity is now regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 22 November 1921 which appoints trustees to administer the income of the charity for the maintenance and repair of the buildings and, subject thereto, in aid of the work of the parish carried on in the buildings.

Charity for Ecclesiastical Purposes in St. Paul's, Leamington Priors. The land formerly constituting the endowment of the charity was sold in 1943 and the proceeds of sale invested. The charity is regulated

<sup>16</sup> Dudley, op. cit. 243-4.

<sup>17</sup> Harl. MS. 3650, fol. 3 v. 38.

<sup>18</sup> Tax. Eccl. (Rec. Com.), 241.

<sup>19</sup> Valor Eccl. (Rec. Com.), iii, 70.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid. 66.

<sup>21</sup> Clergy Lists; Burke, *Landed Gentry* (1919).

<sup>22</sup> Merridew's Guide, 65-6.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid. 64.

<sup>24</sup> The Charitable Repository was founded, before 1837, as a place for the sale of articles made by ladies in reduced circumstances: Merridew's Guide, 67.





LEAMINGTON PRIORY CHURCH, c. 1820



LILLINGTON CHURCH, c. 1820



MILVERTON CHURCH, c. 1820

by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 24 February 1942, which appoints the vicar and churchwardens to be administering trustees and directs that the income of the charity shall be applied in aid of religious or other charitable work of the Church of England in the parish.

Constance Harriet Lea. By an indenture dated 11 August 1914 the sum of £1,000 was given to the Worcester Diocesan Trust, the income thereof to be paid to the vicar for the time being of Holy Trinity, Leamington, as an addition to his stipend.

George Hyde, by will proved on 25 July 1888,

gave his Leamington Gas Shares to the trustees of the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Dale Street, Leamington, the income, after the payment of certain specified sums, to be paid to the Quarterly Board for the benefit of the Leamington Wesleyan Society.

Edward Tracy Turnerelli, by will dated 15 January 1896, gave £1,100 to the Roman Catholic Bishop of Birmingham and the vicar general of the said Diocese, the income to be paid to the senior priest of the Church of the Roman Catholic Mission of St. Peter, Leamington, for the benefit of the mission. The annual income amounts to £28 (approximately).

## LILLINGTON

Acreeage: 1,379.

Population: 1911, 1,641; 1921, 1,715; 1931, 2,290.

A great part of the ancient civil parish of Lillington, including the village, is now incorporated in Leamington Spa, and outlying portions are under Warwick Rural District Council, and called Blackdown parish. It is situated 2 miles north-east of Warwick, with which it is united by houses, 4½ south-east of Kenilworth, and 8 south of Coventry. Two turnpike roads passed through the parish: the road to Rugby via Princethorpe, and the Leamington-Kenilworth road, of which the original route was Lillington Road turning left along Sandy Lane. The present Kenilworth road to Blackdown was not made until 1840. The land at the upper part of Cubbington Road and the Campion Hills rises to about 300 ft. above sea-level. At Chesford and Blackdown the parish is bounded by the placidly flowing Avon.<sup>1</sup> The chief crops were formerly wheat, beans, and oats; then more recently the land was mainly in pasture, but since the late war large quantities of wheat have been grown.

The geological formation of the parish consists partly of the Lower Keuper Sandstone and partly of the lower beds of Keuper Marls. They are concealed in some places by late glacial deposits and are seen in the sandpits on Cubbington Road to consist of sands and gravels, in which the remains of elephant, rhinoceros, &c., have been found.<sup>2</sup> They are capped in these pits by a boulder clay containing travelled blocks of rocks from south Leicestershire and other areas to the north-east. The Keuper Marls are found in the subsoil of Lillington village and its surroundings, and the Keuper Sandstone in that of Stoneleigh Road and the Blackdown district.

Some years ago a Neolithic interment and settlement were discovered here when a human skull, drinking-cup, and spindle whorl were dug up.<sup>3</sup> In 1900 a ground clef of green stone, more than 3 in. long, was found.<sup>4</sup> When in 1937 some workmen were digging a trench in Highland Road, a skeleton was unearthed, and near by a piece of pottery, part of a large jar of the early Roman period. Two years later some fragments of Roman pottery of the 2nd or 3rd century were discovered in Braemar Road, and near by a Roman copper coin, a sestertius struck in A.D. 176 in memory of the Empress Faustina (II).<sup>5</sup>

The Manor House, near the church, is a simple stone building, apparently of the late 17th century, containing some oak panelling of that period. The

stone gate-posts are surmounted by stone balls; the gates and light iron fence are of good design. The modern Vicarage incorporates, at the north end, part of a 17th-century timber-framed house. In Cubbington Road is a late-16th-century timber-framed building with a thatched roof; it is now two cottages, but from the massiveness of the timbers appears to have been part of a house of some importance.

A Survey of 1711,<sup>6</sup> with map,<sup>7</sup> shows that the manor of the Puckerings embraced just over 906 acres. Seven principal tenants held all the 906 acres, of which their annual rentals amounted to £187 5s. The 10 cottagers paid a total rent of £1 18s. 4d.; the lay rectory was worth £60, and fishing rights, &c., £1 9s. per annum. No land was farmed by Lady Bowyer, who then held the manor and was non-resident. Lord Brooke's separate manor consisted of 444 acres but no details are given except the annual rentals amounting to £90. The map accompanying the survey shows a central block, consisting of the Upper and Nether Fields, in the middle of which lay the 'Town', or village, and Inclosures, with projections north and south. That to the north, between Leek Wootton and Ashow, contained Rye Field and The Heath, lying on the Avon; that to the south was the Hamm Field, with meadows on its eastern edge by the River Leam.

In the Inclosure Award of 1730<sup>8</sup> only Henry Wise, then lord of the larger manor, and the vicar had any interest in it, and it would appear that all the owners had been bought out since 1711. Much the same had occurred on Lord Brooke's manor, only two proprietors besides himself being mentioned, but some of his cottagers had the right to graze their cows on the 'cow commons'. The Wises' manor 39 years later included 4 farms of just over 844 acres in all.<sup>9</sup>

The greater part of LILLINGTON was *MANORS* the property of Edric in Edward the Confessor's time and was held by the Count of Meulan in 1086 when it was assessed at 4 hides, with a mill, and valued at 40s.<sup>10</sup> Of him it was held by Warin and Roger. Half a hide here was in possession of Bruning in Edward's day, and at Domesday was held by R. de Olgi from Turchil of Warwick, its value then being 20s.<sup>11</sup> The overlordship of both portions came to the Earls of Warwick.

Apparently the above-mentioned 4 hides were given by Henry I, or by the Earl of Warwick, to Geoffrey de Clinton, and went to Geoffrey's daughter Lesceline,

<sup>1</sup> A detailed account of the bounds as beaten in 1909 is given in William Cooper's *History of Lillington* (1940), 136.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid. 3. <sup>3</sup> *V.C.H. Warwick*, i, 222.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid. 216.

<sup>5</sup> Cooper, op. cit. 3, 4.

<sup>6</sup> Waller MSS. printed, with all the names of the furlongs into which the open fields were divided, in *Hist. of Lillington*, 118-26.

<sup>7</sup> Map in *Hist. of Lillington* (back cover).

<sup>8</sup> Ibid. 127-30.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid. 133.

<sup>10</sup> *V.C.H. Warwick*, i, 316.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid. 323.

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

who married Norman de Verdon, as in 1242 Roese de Verdon held a knight's fee here of the Earl of Warwick, which Peter de Wolvardington, of Wolverton, held of her.<sup>12</sup> The mesne lordship was held in 1279 by Robert de Verdon, and Peter de Wolvardington held of him by service of  $\frac{1}{2}$  knight's fee.<sup>13</sup> This estate in 1279 consisted of 1 carucate held in demesne and 11 virgates with 10 tenants.<sup>14</sup> Later, in 1316, the manor was held of Guy, Earl of Warwick, by Theobald de Verdon by service of 1 knight's fee,<sup>15</sup> and in 1336 the tenant in fee was Margaret daughter and heir of Peter de Wolvardington.<sup>16</sup> Margaret de Wolvardington and John de Walgrave held it of the heirs of Theobald in 1346-7,<sup>17</sup> and in 1382-3 the heirs of Peter de Wolvardington held it of Sir William de Furnival.<sup>18</sup> In 1385 Peter's heirs held a moiety of a knight's fee of Sir William de Furnival's daughter Joan and Thomas de Nevill her husband.<sup>19</sup> John de Walgrave of the county of Buckingham and Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, are said to have held the manor in 1431-2 by service of  $\frac{1}{2}$  knight's fee.<sup>20</sup> It afterwards passed to the Greys, and in 1495 Will. Grey died seised of it. It was then worth £10, being held of the king as of his Hundred of Knightlow Cross for knight's service and a yearly rent of 3d. with suit of court, Thomas his son and heir then being 15 years old.<sup>21</sup> From this Thomas it passed to Edward Grey who in 1536-7 was in possession of it.<sup>22</sup> Robert Grey sold it in 1585 to Nicholas Mynne<sup>23</sup> whose son Nicholas released it in 1592 to his mother Elizabeth Mynne<sup>24</sup> and in 1598 William and Nicholas Mynne released it to her heirs.<sup>25</sup> It was transferred by Thomas Mynne to Timothy Wagstaffe in 1611,<sup>26</sup> who sold it to Sir Fulke Greville, 1st Baron Brooke of Beauchamp's Court near Alcester<sup>27</sup> and Warwick Castle, who died in 1628. As he left no issue the manor passed to his cousin Robert Greville, 2nd Baron Brooke, a distinguished general in the Parliamentary Army. The manor descended with the barony until Francis Greville succeeded to it in 1727. He became 1st Earl Brooke and 1st Earl of Warwick and died in 1773, and his son George, 2nd Earl of Warwick, sold the manor and estate of nearly 500 acres, with the manor or reputed manor of Blackdown, on 13 May 1805.<sup>28</sup> Thereafter all the manorial rights were held by the Wise family.

The half-hide held by Turchil in 1086 came into the hands of Hugh son of Richard (of Hatton), and was held of him by Fulcold in 1121, when they combined to grant it to the newly founded Priory of Kenilworth,<sup>29</sup> which also received from Henry I and Geoffrey de Clinton the church of Leek Wootton (q.v.) with its endowment, which included 2 hides in Lillington.<sup>30</sup>



VERDON. Or fretty gules.

The priory's holding in the parish in 1278-9 was certified to be: 1 carucate of land then held by them in demesne and 16 virgates held by servile tenants. They had a court leet and other privileges.<sup>31</sup> The Prior of Kenilworth was holding of the Earl of Warwick 1 knight's fee in Lillington in 1407,<sup>32</sup> and a quarter-fee in 1428.<sup>33</sup> The manor remained with this religious house until it passed to the Crown at the dissolution of the monastery in 1538. It was granted by Elizabeth in 1560 to William Garrard and others<sup>34</sup> but the grant was revoked in 1562,<sup>35</sup> and in 1564 the Queen granted it, together with the rectory, to Ambrose Dudley, Earl of Warwick, in tail male;<sup>36</sup> but he died without issue in 1589-90. In 1596 the Queen granted it to Sir John Puckering, kt., of the Priory, Warwick, Lord Keeper of the Great Seal,<sup>37</sup> who died after holding it only nine days. He left Thomas, then aged 4, his son and heir;<sup>38</sup> in 1611 he was knighted, created a baronet in the following year, and became high sheriff in 1625. He died in 1637<sup>39</sup> and as he left no male heir his only surviving daughter Jane, afterwards wife of Sir John Bale of Carlton, co. Leicester, succeeded him.<sup>40</sup> Lady Bale died in 1652 without issue and in 1653-4 her father's surviving trustee released the manor to Sir Thomas's nephew, Sir Henry Newton<sup>41</sup> of Charlton, co. Middlesex, who changed his name to Puckering, and took up residence at the Priory, Warwick. Sir Henry was M.P. for Warwick in 1679 and sometime Paymaster General. He died in 1700 without issue and was succeeded by his wife's niece Dame Jane Bowyer,<sup>42</sup> wife of Sir John Bowyer, bt., of Knipersley, co. Stafford. In 1709 the manor and the Priory was purchased from Lady Bowyer and those having any interest in it under the Puckering settlements, by Henry Wise, an eminent landscape gardener, of Brompton Park, Kensington, subject to the life interest of Lady Bowyer.<sup>43</sup> Henry Wise died in 1738 and was succeeded by his eldest son Matthew, who died a bachelor in 1776, when the manor passed to his brother Henry. He died in 1778 and his only son Henry Christopher



WISE. Sable three chevrons ermine between three serpents argent.



WALLER. Sable a bend engrailed argent plain cut out or with three walnut leaves vert on the bend.

succeeded him and died in 1805, when it went to his eldest son Matthew (Blackett) Wise. At his death in 1810 he was succeeded by his brother the Rev. Henry

<sup>12</sup> *Bk. of Fees*, 955. Peter was holding in 1235: *ibid.* 507.

<sup>13</sup> *Dugd.* 303.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.* <sup>15</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* vi, 406.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.* vii, 501.

<sup>17</sup> *Dugd.* 303. Margaret apparently was, or became, the wife of John de Walgrave (*ibid.* 666).

<sup>18</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 6 Ric. II, no. 41. Sir William was grandson and one coheir of Theobald.

<sup>19</sup> *Cal. Close*, 1381-5, p. 526.

<sup>20</sup> *Dugd.* 303. Presumably Walgrave held of the earl.

<sup>21</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII.* ii, 1183.

<sup>22</sup> *Dugd.* 303.

<sup>23</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Hil. 27 Eliz.

<sup>24</sup> Warwick Chart. 2475.

<sup>25</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Hil. 40 Eliz.

<sup>26</sup> Warwick Chart. 2508.

<sup>27</sup> Birm. Ref. Lib. 272809, fol. 27.

<sup>28</sup> Add. MS. 29264, fol. 160.

<sup>29</sup> Harl. MS. 3650, fol. 11v; *Cal. Chart. R.* iii, 275.

<sup>30</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>31</sup> *Dugd.* 303.

<sup>32</sup> *Cal. Close*, 1405-9, p. 183.

<sup>33</sup> *Foud. Aids*, v, 192.

<sup>34</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1558-60, p. 436.

<sup>35</sup> *Ibid.* p. 437. <sup>36</sup> *Pat. 6 Eliz.* pt. 4.

<sup>37</sup> *Pat.* 38 Eliz. pt. 9.

<sup>38</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), ccxvii, 125.

<sup>39</sup> *Ibid.* ccxcxxiii, 107. The rectory

appears for the first time as a 'manor' in a settlement of 1638: Feet of F. Div. Cos.

Hil. 13 Chas. I.

<sup>40</sup> Waller MSS.

<sup>41</sup> G. E. C. *Complete Baronetage*, i, 93, 141.

<sup>42</sup> *Ibid.* 93; Waller MSS.

<sup>43</sup> *Ibid.*; Feet of F. Warw. Trin. 8 Anne.



Wise of Offchurch and when he died in 1850 his son Henry Christopher, sometime M.P. for South Warwickshire, became lord. He died in 1883 and left a son George to succeed him, at whose death in 1888 without issue, the manor went to Major-General Sir George Henry Waller, bt., of Woodcote. Sir George died in 1892 and was succeeded by his son Sir Francis Ernest Waller, bt., who was killed in the First World War in 1914.<sup>44</sup> He was succeeded by his brother Sir Wathen Arthur Waller, bt., who died in 1947 leaving the manor to his widow, Viola, Lady Waller.

The north-western projection of the parish, rising above the left bank of the Avon and lying between the converging Welsh Road and Lillington-Coventry road contains Blakedown, or Blackdown. This, as already mentioned, was called a 'reputed manor' in 1805,<sup>45</sup> but never seems to have been so reputed before. Its importance lay in its water-mill, presumably that attached to Lillington and valued at 6s. 8d. in 1086.<sup>46</sup> This was given to Combe Abbey by William de Borthun by permission of Bertram de Verdon in the 12th century;<sup>47</sup> and subsequently Peter de Wolwarding undertook that his tenants should have all their corn ground at Blakedown mill.<sup>48</sup> Walter Spigurnel gave the monks pasture rights between Blakedown and Humber (Farm) and on Bromhill in the same district.<sup>49</sup> In 1291 the mill was valued at £1 yearly,<sup>50</sup> and thirty years later Blakedown and Wridefen together constituted 1½ knights' fees, held of Theobald de Verdon by the monks of Combe and the canons of Kenilworth.<sup>51</sup> The mills had become attached to the main manor by 1596, when two millers were presented at the court of Elizabeth Myenne for taking undue toll;<sup>52</sup> but in 1650 the Blake Mills, consisting of a corn-mill and two fulling-mill stocks and a mill house, were among the possessions of the late King Charles.<sup>53</sup> The present corn-mill has been out of action for some years, and the 18th-century mill house is a private residence.

The old parish church of *ST. MARY CHURCH MAGDALENE* seems to have consisted of a chancel, nave, and south aisle of 14th-century date, and a 15th-century tower. A north aisle was added in 1847; the south aisle was pulled down and rebuilt in 1858; dormer windows were inserted in the roof in 1875; the chancel, with the exception of the south wall, was rebuilt in 1884, when a chapel to the north of it was also built; and a choir-vestry was added to the east of the chapel in 1914.<sup>54</sup>

The only medieval part of the chancel is the south wall, of red sandstone, in which there is a blocked priest's door, the head being almost semicircular with a slight point in the centre. To the east of it is a window of three uncusped lights, their mullions intersecting in the pointed head, probably 17th-century. West of the door is a narrow window of a single light with trefoiled head in a rectangular frame, and immediately below it a rectangular low-side window, 17 in. high and 11 in. wide, with an iron grille outside; this was unblocked in 1912, when holes for the hinges and bolt of a shutter were found.<sup>55</sup>

In the nave the only ancient feature is the eastern bay

of the south arcade with the respond, two-centred arch of two chamfered orders, and the octagonal pillar with simple moulded capital. The modern aisles have separate gabled roofs. There is a modern porch on the south. At the east end of the north aisle, and north of the chancel, the modern chapel opens into the vestry by a plain round-headed doorway which is alleged to have been refixed from elsewhere and to be Norman.<sup>56</sup>

The tower arch, now blocked by the organ, is of two chamfered orders, which spring from restored square responds. The tower, which is undivided by any string-course, has tall angle buttresses, with five offsets, rising to the embattled parapet, the angles of which carry restored crocketed pinnacles. In the west face the small doorway, with a four-centred head, appears to be modern, as is the tracery of the three-light window above it, though the jambs and two-centred head are original. The belfry has in each face a two-light window; the lights were originally trefoil-headed, with a quatrefoil between them, but are now uncusped and without tracery. Access to the tower vice is in the south-west angle, and the vice is lit by narrow slit-windows in the south face.

The font, though completely scraped, is of 15th-century date, octagonal; the basin is panelled with quatrefoils, alternate panels having blank shields, and the stem has trefoiled panels. Near it, in the tower, is a single black oak choir-stall from Coventry Cathedral. The other furniture is modern, including a pulpit designed by T. Lawrence Dale.

Against one pier of the north arcade is a block of sandstone with a scratch-dial, probably of the 14th century; this was removed from the churchyard wall in 1937 and may have been originally in a buttress of the south aisle.

There are eight bells,<sup>57</sup> of which five were given by Mr. Frederic Bidmead Stratton in 1927. Of the three others, one, bearing the name of St. Katherine, is by Thomas Harrys of London, c. 1480, the second by Hugh Watts of Leicester, 1625, and the third by Henry Bagley of Chacombe, 1675.

The church plate<sup>58</sup> includes an Elizabethan cup, with a paten cover dated 1575.

The registers begin in 1539.

The chapel of Lillington was given *AD FOWSON* to Kenilworth Priory with its mother church of Leek Wootton when the priory was founded by Geoffrey de Clinton in 1121.<sup>59</sup> By 1291 it was a parish church, appropriated to Kenilworth and valued at £5 6s. 8d.<sup>60</sup> In 1535 the rectory was farmed for 66s. 8d.<sup>61</sup> and the vicarage was worth £5 13s. 4d.,<sup>62</sup> including a payment of 13s. 4d. from the canons.<sup>63</sup> Just before the dissolution of the monastery, in January 1538, Laurence Grey obtained a long lease of the rectory;<sup>64</sup> and in 1544 the Crown granted it to him and Thomas Palmer of London.<sup>65</sup> Laurence Grey died in September 1545, seized of the rectory and advowson,<sup>66</sup> and his son Robert died in 1561, having settled them on his wife Bridget.<sup>67</sup> His son Laurence came of age in 1576 and had livery of the rectory and advowson,<sup>68</sup> which he and his mother sold to Sir John

<sup>44</sup> Information from the Waller MSS.

at Shire Hall, Warwick.

<sup>45</sup> See above, n. 28.

<sup>46</sup> *V.C.H. Warwick*, i, 116.

<sup>47</sup> Cott. MS. Vitell. A. I. fol. 59v.

<sup>48</sup> Ibid. 60. <sup>49</sup> Ibid. 61.

<sup>50</sup> *Tax. Eccl. (Rec. Com.)*, 255.

<sup>51</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* vi, 38; vii, 501.

<sup>52</sup> Cooper, op. cit. 102.

<sup>53</sup> Ibid. 115-16.

<sup>54</sup> Ibid. 51-4.

<sup>55</sup> Ibid. 50.

<sup>56</sup> Ibid. 49.

<sup>57</sup> Ibid. 61-3.

<sup>58</sup> *Cal. Chart. R.* iii, 275.

<sup>59</sup> *Tax. Eccl. (Rec. Com.)*, 241.

<sup>60</sup> *Valor Eccl. (Rec. Com.)*, iii, 64.

<sup>61</sup> Ibid. 71.

<sup>62</sup> Ibid. 66.

<sup>63</sup> Cooper, op. cit. 16.

<sup>64</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xix (1), 1035

(121).

<sup>65</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2)*, lxxii, 102.

<sup>66</sup> Ibid. cxxxi, 194.

<sup>67</sup> *Fine R.* 18 Eliz., no. 86.

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

Puckering in 1596,<sup>69</sup> from which time it descended with the manor held by the Puckerings, Wises, and Wallers, Lady Waller being the present patron.

Margaret William Tyron Cumber-  
**CHARITIES**<sup>70</sup> land by will dated 26 September 1884 bequeathed £100, the interest to be paid to the vicar of Lillington, subject to conditions contained in the will and the first codicil thereto. The annual income of the charity amounts to £2 9s.

Henrietta Ann Cunningham by will dated 13 October 1903 gave to the vicar of Old Lillington £100, to apply the income in keeping the testatrix's grave at Lillington in repair and planted with flowers and to apply the surplus income to the Church Expenses Fund. The annual income amounts to £2 15s. 8d.

John Machen by will dated 2 November 1887 gave to the vicar and churchwardens of Lillington £105, the income to be applied for the benefit of the poor of the parish. The annual income amounts to £2 17s.

Ellen Machen by will dated 20 February 1888 gave to the vicar and churchwardens of Lillington £500, the income to be applied for the benefit of the poor of the parish. The annual income amounts to £12 7s. 8d.

Edward Pershouse by will dated 29 December 1868 gave to the vicar and churchwardens of Lillington £100, the income to be expended annually at Christmas in the purchase of bread or other food or clothing to be distributed among the necessitous poor persons in the village of Lillington. The annual income amounts to £2 10s.

## MILVERTON<sup>1</sup>

Acreage: 1,273.

The old parish of Milverton lies east of Warwick and north-west of Leamington Spa. The River Avon forms its northern and western boundaries, and the Leam its southern, part of the eastern having originally been the Binsbrook,<sup>2</sup> now built over but commemorated by Brook Street in Leamington. Until about 1840 it seems to have been little affected by the growth of Leamington, but by 1880 the district between Rugby Road on the north and Warwick New Road and Milverton Hill on the south had been built over,<sup>3</sup> and since then there has been considerable development to the north of Rugby Road. In 1894 the parish was divided into the two civil parishes of Old and New Milverton; the latter, being within the borough of Leamington, was absorbed into the newly constituted civil parish of Leamington in 1902.<sup>4</sup>

In the south-west corner of the parish was the hamlet of Edmondscote, or Emscote,<sup>5</sup> which was depopulated by inclosure in the 15th century, and by the middle of the 17th century contained only the manor-house.<sup>6</sup> This was a stone building, apparently medieval in origin, retaining in 1835 'a pointed arch towards the court' and in the back kitchen 'remains of a gothic window'; there was an oak staircase up to a wide gallery, and one room, panelled in oak, had over the fire-place 'an Ancient Fancy Piece of Painting'.<sup>7</sup> It stood slightly to the south-west of the present Milverton Station, on the Leamington-Coventry branch of the L.N.W. (later L.M.S.) Railway. A short distance west of it was the old bridge over the Avon, 'an irregular narrow building of 7 or 8 arches, some round and others pointed'.<sup>8</sup> Emscote Bridge was in a dangerous state in 1625<sup>9</sup> and, after the usual disputes as to responsibility for its repair, was largely rebuilt in 1629,<sup>10</sup> but by 1650 was again in need of repairs.<sup>11</sup> By 1830 it had been condemned as unsafe and next year the existing Portobello Bridge, some 20 yards lower down the stream, replaced it, at a cost of £9,000.<sup>12</sup>

North of the bridge an island, formed by canalization

of part of the course of the Avon, is the site of the Rock Mills, where in 1792 a cotton-spinning factory was established by Benjamin Smart, a Leamington Quaker who had bought the manor-house and mill from the Bests. For a while it employed nearly a hundred persons, but it was not a financial success, and by 1830 it had been converted into flour mills.<sup>13</sup> This was probably the site of the mill of Milverton valued at 50s. in the Domesday Survey,<sup>14</sup> and of the mill which John de Astley held of Sir Andrew de Astley in 1279.<sup>15</sup> In 1560 the estate of Alverd Trussell in Milverton included a water-mill and a fulling-mill,<sup>16</sup> and ten years later his son was dealing with a water-mill and fishing rights in the Avon.<sup>17</sup> There was also a mill on the Leam, to which Thomas Hugford had leave to divert the stream in 1430.<sup>18</sup> This was presumably one of the two mills attached to Emscote Manor in 1621,<sup>19</sup> and may have been the water-mill called Averys mill, in the tenure of William Ord, in 1630.<sup>20</sup> In 1705 the joint manors of Emscote and Milverton included a water corn-mill and fulling-mill.<sup>21</sup>

In 1805 an Act<sup>22</sup> was passed for the inclosing of certain open fields, common meadows and pastures, and waste in Milverton, the hamlet of Emscote being expressly excluded. The map attached to the Award of 1808 shows that the land to the west of the Old Milverton Road had already been inclosed, as well as much in the south round Conery Farm, later 'called the Cunners from formerly swarming with rabbits'<sup>23</sup> and now Gunners Farm, a 17th-century timber-framed house with traces of an earlier stone building. The largest allotments were made to Elizabeth Baldwin, formerly widow of Benjamin Palmer (227 acres), the Earl of Upper Ossory (as trustee of the Earl of Warwick) (186 acres), and Bertie Greathead of Guy's Cliffe (162 acres).

Dr. Thomas in 1730 noted under Milverton that 'Their Wake follows St. James',<sup>24</sup> and it continued to be held, in the form of a small fair, on the Monday

<sup>69</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), ccxvi, 125.

<sup>70</sup> See Cooper, op. cit. 134-6.

<sup>1</sup> Much material for this account has been supplied by Mr. William Cooper, F.S.A., and Mr. H. M. Jenkins.

<sup>2</sup> See below, n. 61.

<sup>3</sup> Maps in Leamington Public Library.

<sup>4</sup> Kelly, *Direct. of Warwick*.

<sup>5</sup> The ecclesiastical parish of Emscote, west of the Avon, derives its modern name from its lying at the farther end of Emscote Bridge.

<sup>6</sup> Dugd. 277.

<sup>7</sup> Add. MS. 29264, fol. 151. A few traces of the old building are incorporated in the present Manor House.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>9</sup> *Warw. Co. Recs.* i, 3, 31, 42, 51.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.* 67.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.* ii, 270; iii, 4.

<sup>12</sup> *Merridew's Guide to Leamington* (1837), 87.

<sup>13</sup> *West, Direct. of Warw.* (1830), 703.

<sup>14</sup> *P.C.H. Warw.* i, 310.

<sup>15</sup> Exch. K.R. Misc. Bks. 15, fol. 26 v.

<sup>16</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), ccxvi, 152.

<sup>17</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Trin. 12 Eliz.

<sup>18</sup> See below, n. 70.

<sup>19</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 19 Jas. I.

<sup>20</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccclxxxv, 196.

<sup>21</sup> Feet of Warw. Hil. 3 Anne.

<sup>22</sup> 45 Geo. III, c. 35.

<sup>23</sup> Add. MS. 29264, fol. 150 v.

<sup>24</sup> Dugd. 277.

after St. James's Day, 25 July, until about the end of the 19th century.

In 1086 *MILVERTON*, which had *MANORS* formerly been held by Lewin and was rated at 1½ hides, was in the hands of the Count of Meulan. It included a mill worth 50s. and 30 acres of meadow.<sup>25</sup> The overlordship was afterwards divided between the earls of Warwick and Leicester. Part of the Warwick share was held with Astley and Morton as 1½ knight's fees by Thomas de Astley, or Astley, in 1235 and 1242,<sup>26</sup> and by Nicholas de Astley in 1316.<sup>27</sup> Thomas de Astley conveyed his land here, with other property, in 1337 to the chantry<sup>28</sup> which in 1343 he converted into the college of Astley,<sup>29</sup> and it formed the endowment of the prebend of Milverton in the college.

When the elder Geoffrey de Clinton was on his death-bed he told his son Geoffrey to restore to his man Ermenfrid de Ponte 2 virgates of land in Milverton, which Geoffrey accordingly did.<sup>30</sup> This may perhaps have been the estate in Milverton which was said in 1221 to have been pledged to Jews and had then been for the past seven years in the hands of William de Cantilupe, being valued at £7.<sup>31</sup> It may also be identical with 'an escheat at Milverton' of which Richard Trussell had the homage and Margery his mother's sister had the rent in dower at the time of Richard's death at Evesham in 1265.<sup>32</sup> Richard's brother William Trussell was one of the three lords of Milverton in 1279 and held of Andrew de Astley as ½ knight's fee, Andrew holding of the Earl of Warwick.<sup>33</sup> William was returned as lord of the vill in 1316,<sup>34</sup> and in 1382 Sir Alvred Trussell settled the manor on himself in tail male.<sup>35</sup> His descendant Thomas Trussell died in 1516 seised of property described as 10 messuages and 20 virgates of land, leaving a grandson Alvred<sup>36</sup> at whose death in 1560 the estate is called 'tenements',<sup>37</sup> but in 1573 Alvred's son John Trussell conveyed 'the manor' of Milverton to Adam Palmer,<sup>38</sup> who had married his sister Dorothy.<sup>39</sup> Their (? great-grandson) Henry Palmer married Anne Greswolde,<sup>40</sup> and after the deaths of Benjamin Palmer (1734) and his widow, who married Baldwin of Aquale (Staffs.), the manor passed to Henry Greswolde Lewis and Mrs. Wilson, and in 1835 was sold by Mr. Wilson for £36,000 to the Hon. Charles Bertie Percy of Guy's Cliffe,<sup>41</sup> in which estate it was merged, the manorial rights, if any existed, lapsing.

Roger, Earl of Warwick, when he founded his collegiate church of St. Mary at Warwick in 1123 included in its endowments ½ hide of land in Milverton and the tithes of all his fee there.<sup>42</sup> In 1279 Ralph de Hengham, who was returned as one of the three lords of Milverton, was apparently mesne lord between the Earl of Warwick and the college, of which the 2

virgates that he held formed a prebend.<sup>43</sup> This arrangement was probably purely temporary and personal to Ralph. When the college was suppressed in 1547 it was receiving 12s. rents, of which 8s. were paid by the Beauforges of Emscote.<sup>44</sup>

The portion of the Count of Meulan's estate which descended to the Earls of Leicester lay mostly in *EMSCOTE*. After the death of Robert 'fitzPernel', the last Earl of Leicester of this line, the overlordship passed to his sister Margaret, wife of Sayer de Quincy, Earl of Winchester,<sup>45</sup> and a half fee in Emscote and Milverton was held by their son Earl Roger at his death in 1264.<sup>46</sup> He left three daughters and coheirs, the younger of whom, Elena, married Alan la Zouche and was in possession of the half fee in 1279,<sup>47</sup> as was Alan la Zouche in 1313,<sup>48</sup> and Robert de Holand, in right of his wife Maud, daughter and coheir of Alan,<sup>49</sup> in 1328.<sup>50</sup> Their granddaughter Maud, widow of John, Lord Lovel of Titchmarsh, died seised of the half fee in 1423,<sup>51</sup> as did her son Sir William in 1455.<sup>52</sup> The last Lord Lovel was attainted and forfeited his estates in 1495, but the manor was still held of the honor of Winchester in 1504.<sup>53</sup>

Walter Spigurnel of Emscote gave to the monks of Combe Abbey common of pasture of his fee of Milverton near Blackdown<sup>54</sup> in Lillington (q.v.). He had evidently acquired this estate by marriage, as in 1210 he and his wife Celestria claimed against Robert de Milverton 2 virgates in Milverton, as having belonged to her father Henry;<sup>55</sup> and in 1224 they granted meadow in Emscote to Walter de Edlegh, to be held of the heirs of Celestria.<sup>56</sup> Moreover, in 1231, when they claimed the advowson of the church of Milverton against the prior of Kenilworth, to whom Walter remitted his claim in the following year,<sup>57</sup> it was on the ground that Celestria's father Henry had presented his brother Godfrey to the living in the time of Henry II.<sup>58</sup> This Henry may possibly have been the Henry de Edelmescote who was dealing with land in Emscote in 1202.<sup>59</sup> Walter was presumably succeeded by James, as in 1247 Richard le Espigurnel as guardian of John, son of James le Espigurnel who held of the Earl of Winchester in Emscote, was claiming sole fishing rights in part of the River Leam. The jury found that the Earl and Countess of Warwick had the right to fish there in person and that their men might take fish for their use on one or two days before their arrival at Warwick.<sup>60</sup> This John Spigurnel was one of the three lords of Milverton in 1279, and also lord of Emscote, holding in each case from Elena la Zouche, and also had the fishing rights in the Leam between the Avon and Binsbrook.<sup>61</sup> A later John Spigurnel in 1325 settled an estate in Emscote and Milverton, defined as 6 messuages, 4 carucates of land, and 100s. rents, on himself and his wife Maud,<sup>62</sup> and probably died not

<sup>25</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* i, 310.

<sup>26</sup> *Bk. of Fees*, 508, 955.

<sup>27</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, 405, 408.

<sup>28</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1334-8, p. 389.

<sup>29</sup> *Ibid.* 1343-5, p. 1.

<sup>30</sup> *Harl. MS.* 3650, fol. 69 v.

<sup>31</sup> *Roll of Justices in Eyre in . . . Warw.* (Selden Soc.), 951.

<sup>32</sup> *Cal. Inq. Misc.* i, 939.

<sup>33</sup> *Exch. K.R. Misc. Bks.* 15, fol. 26 v.

<sup>34</sup> *Feud. Aids*, v, 177.

<sup>35</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xviii), 2274.

<sup>36</sup> *Dugd.* 277.

<sup>37</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), ccxvi, 152.

<sup>38</sup> *Feet of F. Warw. Trin.* 15 Eliz.

<sup>39</sup> *Vitin. of Warw.* 1619 (Harl. Soc.),

93, 239.

<sup>40</sup> *Burke, Landed Gentry* (1846).

<sup>41</sup> *Add. MS.* 2264, fol. 150.

<sup>42</sup> *Exch. K.R. Misc. Bks.* 22, fol. 123;

*Dugdale, Mon. Angl.* vi, 1327.

<sup>43</sup> *Dugd.* 276; *Exch. K.R. Misc. Bks.*

15, fol. 26 v.

<sup>44</sup> *Mon. Bailiffs' Accts.* (Dugd. Soc.), 93.

<sup>45</sup> *G. E. C. Complete Peerage* (1st ed.),

viii, 169.

<sup>46</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* i, 776.

<sup>47</sup> *Exch. K.R. Misc. Bks.* 15, fol. 26.

<sup>48</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, p. 259.

<sup>49</sup> *G. E. C. op. cit.* (2nd ed.), vi, 530.

<sup>50</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* vii, 156.

<sup>51</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* i Hen. VI, no. 51.

<sup>52</sup> *Ibid.* 33 Hen. VI, no. 28.

<sup>53</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII*, ii, 913.

<sup>54</sup> *Cott. MS. Vitell. A. i*, fol. 61.

<sup>55</sup> *Curia Regis R.* vii, 78; *Feet of F.*

(Dugd. Soc. xi), 201.

<sup>56</sup> *Ibid.* 343.

<sup>57</sup> *Ibid.* 487.

<sup>58</sup> *Bracton's Note-Book*, 569.

<sup>59</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xi), 91.

<sup>60</sup> *Assise R.* 952, m. 25.

<sup>61</sup> *Exch. K.R. Misc. Bks.* 15, fols. 26, 27.

<sup>62</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xv), 1620.

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

long afterwards, as Maud Spigurnel is said to have held  $\frac{1}{4}$  knight's fee here in 1336.<sup>63</sup> The family seems to have died out soon after this, possibly ending in an heiress married to John de Charleton of Middlesex, as he and his son Thomas in 1374 confirmed to John, son of William Rivel of Buckley (Northants.), lands in Emscote and Milverton, with the reversion of others held in dower by Joan, widow of James Spigurnel.<sup>64</sup> William Rivel left a daughter Joan who married Geoffrey de Edmundescote,<sup>65</sup> also called Reynolds, and their son Richard took his mother's name of Rivel and in 1408 conveyed the manor to Robert Hugford and Joyce his wife,<sup>66</sup> whose daughter Margery Richard married.<sup>67</sup> Later in the year Robert Hugford, who was controller of the household of the Earl of Warwick,<sup>68</sup> received a grant of free warren in Emscote and Milverton.<sup>69</sup> His son Thomas in 1430 gave land near Warwick to the earl in exchange for the right to divert the water of the Leam to his mill.<sup>70</sup> In 1438 Thomas was called lord of Emscote when he and his wife Margaret had an indent to possess a portable altar.<sup>71</sup> His son John died in 1485, leaving as coheirs three daughters: Joan who married Henry Beaufoe, Alice, wife of Richard Cotes, and Anne who married Gerard Danett and had a daughter Elizabeth who died childless.<sup>72</sup> Richard Cotes died in 1504, leaving a son John, who in 1512 conveyed his share to John Beaufoe (son of Joan Hugford).<sup>73</sup> Gerard Danett, having had issue by Anne, held 'by the courtesy of England' tenements in Emscote which reverted on his death in 1520 to John, son of John Beaufoe, a minor in ward to Sir Edward Ferrers.<sup>74</sup> John Beaufoe was, therefore, seised of the manor when he died in January 1530, leaving a widow Ursula and four sons, of whom John, the eldest, was 7 years old.<sup>75</sup> The estate, known from 1583 onwards as the manors of Emscote and Milverton, descended in the family until the death of Sir Henry Beaufoe in 1678.<sup>76</sup> His eventual heir was his sister Martha who married Sir Samuel Garth, M.D., physician to Queen Anne. Their daughter Mary Beaufoy Garth married William Boyle, a grandson of the first Earl of Orrery, and had a daughter Harriet Anne, wife of the Rev. William Dee Best,<sup>77</sup> who in 1776 made a conveyance of the manors and church to George, Earl Brooke and Warwick.<sup>78</sup>

Dr. Thomas in 1730 states that the Earl of Stamford 'claims a royalty (i.e. a manorial lordship) but has little or no estate' in Milverton.<sup>79</sup> The Earls of Stamford

(who from 1796 to 1883 were also Earls of Warrington)<sup>80</sup> appear as lords of the manor of Milverton between 1729 and 1832,<sup>81</sup> and the only manorial lord mentioned in the Inclosure Award of 1808 was George Harry, Earl of Stamford and Warrington, whose allotment was the insignificant amount of 1 acre, 39 perches. As the earls were descended from Henry, Lord Grey of Groby, who was nephew of Henry Grey, Marquess of Dorset and later Duke of Suffolk (attainted in 1555), to whom Astley College with its estate in Milverton was granted in 1545<sup>82</sup> it might be supposed that this lordship derived from the prebend of Milverton; but it is definitely stated in the Award that this manor was 'parcel of his Honour of Winchester'. So, apparently, the claim was to the overlordship, by descent from Margaret, eldest daughter and coheir of Roger de Quincy. It does not seem to have been advanced before the 18th century and apparently faded out in the 19th, leaving as its chief memorial the 'Stamford and Warrington Arms', now Milverton Coffee House, in Rugby Road.

The old church of **ST. JAMES, CHURCHES** on the crest of a hill which slopes west and north to the Avon, was a small building, apparently mainly of the 13th century, with chancel, nave with north aisle, and west tower.<sup>83</sup> By the end of the 18th century the greater part of the tower had been removed and replaced by a timber-framed tower with a pyramidal cap, and it is probable that the whole edifice was in poor condition. It was pulled down and completely rebuilt on the same site in 1879-80 from designs by John Gibson<sup>84</sup> at the cost of Lord Charles and Lady Ann Bertie Percy. The present building consists of chancel, north organ-chamber and vestry, north aisle, south porch, and west tower. The walls are of coursed rubble outside and ashlar inside, with windows and doorways in late-13th-century style. The north arcade is of three pointed arches. The upper story of the tower has an arcade of four pointed arches on each face.

There are three bells,<sup>85</sup> two of 1863, and the third inscribed *SANCTA KATERINA ORA PRO NOBIS*, with shields bearing the marks of Henry Jordan.

The communion plate includes a silver Elizabethan cup with strap-work ornament and the date 1570.

The registers begin in 1742.

The church of **ST. MARK**, in Rugby Road, New Milverton, was built and endowed in 1879 by the Rev. E. Carus-Wilson and E. Carus-Wilson, esq. in memory of their sister Lady (Trevor) Wheler. It was designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott in red brick with stone dressings, in 14th-century style. It consists of chancel with north chapel, transepts, clearstoried nave, north and south aisles, south porch, and a large west tower with battlements and pinnacles.

Milverton Episcopal Chapel,<sup>86</sup> built in 1835 on part of the Earl of Warwick's Emscote estate, and pulled down in 1882, was a remarkable building 'of Grecian architecture' designed by Mr. Jackson of Leamington



HUGFORD. *Vert a chevron between three bucks' heads or with three molets gules on the chevron.*



BEAUFEO. *Ermine a bend azure with three cinquefoils or thereon.*

<sup>63</sup> Dugd. 277.

<sup>64</sup> *Cal. Close*, 1374-7, p. 107.

<sup>65</sup> *Cat. Anct. D. iv*, A. 8250. Geoffrey was living in 1397: *Cal. Pat.* 1396-8, p. 300.

<sup>66</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xviii), 2438;

*Cal. Close*, 1405-9, p. 384.

<sup>67</sup> Dugd. 278; *Cat. Anct. D. iv*, A.

8470, A. 10408.

<sup>68</sup> Dugd. 278.

<sup>69</sup> *Cal. Chart. R. v*, 441.

<sup>70</sup> Add. MS. 28564, fol. 50.

<sup>71</sup> *Cal. Papal L.* viii, 393.

<sup>72</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII*, ii, 613.

<sup>73</sup> *Close R.* 4 Hen. VIII, pt. 4.

<sup>74</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), xxxv, 28.

<sup>75</sup> *Ibid.* iii, 4.

<sup>76</sup> *Ibid.* cc, 27; cccclxxxv, 106; *Feet of*

*F. Div. Cos. East.* 1656; *ibid.* Warw.

*East.* 22 Chas. II.

<sup>77</sup> Add. MS. 29264, fol. 151. Cf. *Feet*

of *F. Warw. Hil.* 3 Anne; *Hil.* 16 Geo. III.

<sup>78</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>79</sup> Dugd. 277.

<sup>80</sup> G. E. C. *Complete Peerage* (1st ed.), vii, 230-1.

<sup>81</sup> *Gamekeepers' Deputations*.

<sup>82</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xx (2), 924; xxi (1), 1537 (7).

<sup>83</sup> View in Aylesford Collection.

<sup>84</sup> *Dict. Nat. Biog. Suppl.*

<sup>85</sup> Tilley and Walters, *Church Bells of*

*Warw.*

<sup>86</sup> View and description in Merridew's *Guide to Leamington* (1837), 37-40.



and had some unusual features, such as the placing of the pulpit behind the altar.

Although, as mentioned above, in *ADFOUWSON* 1231 Walter Spignell claimed the advowson of Milverton Church from the Prior of Kenilworth, to whom he remitted it in 1232, it was in fact a chapel of Leek Wootton, with which it had been given to the priory. It had been appropriated to the priory before 1279,<sup>87</sup> at which time there were 15 acres of glebe, but no vicarage was ordained. In 1371 and 1384 the chapel was served by the vicar of Leek Wootton.<sup>88</sup> Just before the Dissolution, in March 1538, a lease of the rectory for 60 years was made to Richard Newport at a rent of £8 6s. 8d. on condition of his paying the chaplain's stipend of £5 6s. 8d.<sup>89</sup> His son John Newport married Dorothy, sister of Sir Christopher Hatton, on whose death their son William took the name of Hatton.<sup>90</sup> This Sir William Hatton had the rectory and the advowson of the vicarage of Milverton in 1590<sup>91</sup> and conveyed them in 1593 to Thomas Beaufoe.<sup>92</sup> They then

descended with the manor of Emscote (see above), being conveyed to Earl Brooke and Warwick in 1776.<sup>93</sup> From the Earl of Warwick the advowson was bought in 1878 by Lady Ann Caroline Bertie Percy; and is now in the hands of Mrs. Heber-Percy.<sup>94</sup>

The living of New Milverton is in the gift of trustees.

Thomas Thompson. It is recorded in *CHARITIES* on a tablet in the Church that he gave £100, two-thirds of the interest to be distributed among the poor of Tachbrook and one third among the poor of this parish. The income applicable for the poor of this parish amounts to 17s. 8d. Lampet's Charity. By a declaration of trust dated 15 March 1894 a sum of £72 4s. 5d. was invested, the income to be paid to the vicar and churchwardens of Milverton for the benefit of the deserving poor of the parish. The annual income amounts to £1 16s. 4d.

Herbert William Hutchings Green by will dated 8 November 1932 bequeathed to the vicar and churchwardens £100 for the benefit of the parish so long as certain specified graves are kept in good order.

## LEEK WOOTTON

Acreeage: 1,2101.

Population: 1911, 481; 1921, 448; 1931, 466.

The eastern boundary<sup>1</sup> of the parish is formed by the River Avon between Chesford Bridge, described in 1664 as 'an ancient stone bridge' on the road from Birmingham to Southam,<sup>3</sup> on the north and Guy's Cliffe Mill on the south. Just west of the mill the road from Warwick enters the parish, running due north to Kenilworth, and on this road half-way between the two towns lies the village of Leek Wootton, on a slight hill with the church at its highest point. The houses are mostly of the 18th century, of brick with tiled roofs, though there are a few of slightly earlier date, timber-framed and thatched. A little north of the church a road runs east to the hamlet of Hill Wootton, crossing a by-road to Chesford Bridge and the Coventry and Leamington branch of the L.M.S. Railway. Another road, called 'the new road' in 1867,<sup>4</sup> leads north-west from the village past Woodcote, where Mr. Wise pulled down the old manor-house and built a new one in 1861.<sup>5</sup> South of the village is Wootton Court, dating from about the same time, with extensive grounds; and south of this a stone cross on Blacklow Hill marks the place where Piers Gaveston was beheaded in 1311.<sup>6</sup>

The mill of 'Gibbelive', later corrupted to Guy's Cliffe, was given by Geoffrey de Clinton early in the 12th century to Gilbert 'nutricius' of Warwick<sup>7</sup> and by him, with the assent of the younger Geoffrey, conveyed to Kenilworth Priory.<sup>8</sup> The prior held two mills there in 1279,<sup>9</sup> probably under one roof, as in 1291 he had one mill worth 30s.<sup>10</sup> by the time of the Dissolution its value had risen to £4 13s. 4d.<sup>11</sup> It was

bought about 1780 by Mr. Samuel Greathead of Guy's Cliffe<sup>12</sup> and has remained part of that estate.

In March 1669 there was much talk of a strange sound 'like the beating of drums in a march or call' heard in a well belonging to one Nibbs at Hill Wootton; which sound was said to have been heard in 1642, when it continued 14 days, and on his Majesty's return.<sup>13</sup> What it prognosticated on this occasion remains a mystery.

The early history of Wootton is obscure. *MANORS* Dugdale identified it with Earl Roger's holding of 'Quatone',<sup>14</sup> entered towards the end of the list of his estates in Domesday Book; but Eytton produced good evidence for this referring to Quatt in Shropshire, to which county the three entries which follow it undoubtedly belonged.<sup>15</sup> It is possible that the unidentified 'Optone',<sup>16</sup> a member of the king's manor of Stoneleigh, is a scribal error for 'Odetone'. This seems the more possible as 'Optone' was held, as 3 hides, by Albert the clerk in frankalmoin and there were two priests there, while we find later that Wootton was the mother church of Leamington, Ashow, Lillington, Milverton, and Cubbington, and was endowed with 3 hides, 1 in Wootton and 2 in Lillington.<sup>17</sup> Certainly it was among the estates which Henry I bestowed upon his chamberlain Geoffrey de Clinton, who gave the church of *WOOTTON* with its lands to his new foundation of Kenilworth Priory, reserving only certain pieces of woodland for his park.<sup>18</sup> Odo de Turri and his son William gave to the priory lands which are described in the confirmation charter of Henry II as being in Wootton;<sup>19</sup> in the confirmation by Geoffrey de Clinton,<sup>20</sup> son of the founder, they are

<sup>87</sup> Exch. K.R. Misc. Bks. 15, fol. 26 v.

<sup>88</sup> *Wm. Salt, Soc. m.s.* viii, 59, 89.

<sup>89</sup> *Mon. Basiiff' Acct.* (Dugd. Soc.), 42.

<sup>90</sup> Baker, *Norhampt.* i, 197.

<sup>91</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Hil. 32 Eliz.

<sup>92</sup> *Ibid.* Mich. 35-6, Eliz.

<sup>93</sup> *Ibid.* Hil. 16 Geo. III.

<sup>94</sup> *Ex inf.* the Rev. J. W. Evans.

<sup>1</sup> Portions of the Borough of Warwick having been transferred to this parish in 1931, the area is now 2,677 acres: Kelly, *Direct. of Warw.* (1936).

<sup>2</sup> A detailed perambulation of the

boundaries made in 1867 is printed in *Notes on the History of Leek Wootton* (by S. E. L. 1935), pp. 30-82.

<sup>3</sup> *Warw. Co. Rect.* iv, 306. The bridge and its approaches were constantly presented as out of repair: *ibid.* vi, *passim*.

<sup>4</sup> *Notes on . . . Leek Wootton*, 35. The road to Hill Wootton was also made after the inclosure in 1822: *ibid.* 25.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.* 30. The house was sold in 1949 for the Headquarters of the Warwick Police.

<sup>6</sup> *F.C.H. Warw.* ii, 433.

<sup>7</sup> Harl. MS. 3650, fol. 69.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.* fol. 3 v.

<sup>9</sup> Exch. K.R. Misc. Bks. 15, fol. 18 v.

<sup>10</sup> *Tax. Ecd.* (Rec. Com.), 254.

<sup>11</sup> *Mon. Angl.* vi, 225.

<sup>12</sup> *Notes on . . . Leek Wootton*, 13.

<sup>13</sup> *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1668-9, p. 236.

<sup>14</sup> Dugd. 268.

<sup>15</sup> Eytton, *Shrops.* i, 173-5; *F.C.H. Warw.* i, 308.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.* 301-2.

<sup>17</sup> Dugdale, *Mon. Angl.* vi, 221, 223.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.* 19. <sup>19</sup> *Ibid.* 223.

<sup>20</sup> Harl. MS. 3650, fol. 79.

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

called 'the land of the Heath (*Brueria*), from Holebroc<sup>21</sup> to the Avon and as far as Ashow, and beyond Holebroc from the road from Coventry to Warwick by Rincue<sup>22</sup> cutting across Longdon to the road from Wootton to Kenilworth by Hinecleford'; also meadow 'from Woodcote meadow as far as the cliff (*fracturam rupis*) of Culfricive'. Odo also gave the land of Smedehul for the soul of his son Robert. In 1279 the Prior of Kenilworth was one of the four lords of Wootton, his portion being called the Cross Grange, with 2 ploughlands in demesne, 4 freeholders, and 10 bond tenants;<sup>23</sup> the value of the land in 1291 being £2 10s. and of the stock on it 20s.<sup>24</sup> By this time the distinctive form *LEEK WOOTTON* was coming into use.<sup>25</sup> After the Dissolution the manor of 'Lekewotton otherwise called Crosse Graunge' was valued at £16 15s. 1d.<sup>26</sup> It was leased in January 1541 to Andrew Flammock and Elizabeth his wife for 43 years,<sup>27</sup> and was granted in 1553 to John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland.<sup>28</sup> Apparently it was settled on his wife Joan, as after his attainder she surrendered it to the Crown in June 1554 in exchange for other lands.<sup>29</sup> By this time Flammock was dead, and the reversion of the manor was sold to Sir Rowland Hill and (his brother's son-in-law) Thomas Leigh, alderman of London.<sup>30</sup> From this time it descended with Stoneleigh (q.v.) in the family of Leigh.

A knight's fee in Wootton was held of the Earl of Warwick and may therefore have derived from one of Turchill's estates, possibly that of Ashow. It was held for some time by the Savages of Baginton (q.v.), but its early history is confused. In 1190 Richard de Frevill was claiming the fee against Geoffrey le Salvage,<sup>31</sup> to whom Thomas de Arden granted the fee in 1196.<sup>32</sup> In 1203 Henry de Armentiers sued Geoffrey for the Wootton fee as having belonged to his grandmother Isabel and his father David.<sup>33</sup> Next year Geoffrey acknowledged Henry's right to the fee and paid 10 marks, in return for which Henry granted him one-third of the fee in demesnes, rents, and services, with the whole of the chief messuage.<sup>34</sup> Geoffrey Savage held the fee of the Earl of Warwick in 1235,<sup>35</sup> and in 1242 his heir was said to hold it of Thomas de Clinton, who held of the earl.<sup>36</sup> When William Savage died in 1259 he was seised of two-thirds of Wootton and 'Huile', held of John Peyvere as one knight's fee.<sup>37</sup> This estate passed to his sister Philippa, wife of Hugh Meynill, and in 1279 she was jointly responsible with Robert Mortimer, the Abbot of Stoneleigh, and the Prior of Kenilworth for the service of one knight to the Earl of Warwick; at this time she had the right to hold a court leet and the assize of bread and ale, and had appropriated fishing rights in part of the Avon.<sup>38</sup> Her lands descended to Sir Hugh Meynill, who is said to have sold a moiety of the vill in 1350 to Henry, Earl of Lancaster;<sup>39</sup> after which it descended with Kenil-

worth (q.v.) until 1915, when the manor was sold by the Earl of Clarendon to Lord Leigh.

Robert Mortimer in 1279 was holding one-third of a mill, of which the other two-thirds were held by the Abbot of Stoneleigh, who also had the fishing rights on one bank of the Avon from Holebrok to Gibbeclive (Guy's Cliffe).<sup>40</sup> This was evidently the mill of Yartford (probably where the lane to Chesford Bridge crosses the 'Holebrok', or Cattle Brook), of which Geoffrey son of Geoffrey Savage gave two-thirds, with the suit of his men of Hill and Wootton, with two-thirds of the croft lying between the Avon and the Coventry-Warwick road and of two inclosures of meadow belonging to the mill; the remaining third being given to the abbey by Sir William de Wholton before 1326, when both gifts were confirmed, with others, including one by Thomas de Edensore (nephew and co-heir of William Savage) of his land in Hill Wootton.<sup>41</sup> At the Dissolution the water-mill called Wodmyll and lands and meadows in Hill Wotton called Yatesford, late of Stoneleigh, were granted to James Cruce.<sup>42</sup>

In 1086 the Count of Meulan had two separate holdings, each of 1 hide, in *WOODCOTE*. Of these one, which had been held by Cantuin and Turbern before the Conquest, he held in demesne;<sup>43</sup> the other, formerly held by Leuric, was held of him by Gilbert, whose tenants included 'a knight'.<sup>44</sup> It was probably the demesne hide of which the overlordship passed to the Earls of Warwick. It was held with Fulbrook (q.v.) as half a knight's fee and was in the hands of William de Turvill in 1190, when he mortgaged his land here to Richard Kent.<sup>45</sup> His co-heirs Simon de Turvill and Roger de Craft held the half fee in 1235,<sup>46</sup> as did Roger de Craft and John Mace in 1242.<sup>47</sup> In 1279 their representatives<sup>48</sup> Henry Hubaud, Hugh de Herdebergh, Robert rector of the church of Bedworth, and Denise Mace were returned as lords of *UPPER WOODCOTE*, held of the Earl of Warwick as one-fifth fee.<sup>49</sup> Hugh's share was represented in 1325 by rents in Woodcote held by his heir<sup>50</sup> Alice and her husband John de Peyto,<sup>51</sup> who conveyed them in 1339 to Sir Walter Hopton and Joan his wife;<sup>52</sup> but Thomas Hubaud is said to have held one-sixth fee of the earl in 1466.<sup>53</sup>

The overlordship of the other hide, held by Gilbert, passed to the Earl of Leicester, who held Woodcote in 1174,<sup>54</sup> and he probably enfeoffed Robert Boteler of Oversley, as his son Ralph Boteler in 1212 granted the whole vill to John Belet, to hold as one-quarter knight's fee.<sup>55</sup> In 1279 this quarter fee of *LOWER WOODCOTE* was held by Robert Masse of Robert Boteler, who held it of the Earl of Leicester.<sup>56</sup> The overlordship passed to the Earl of Lancaster, of whom it was held by William Boteler in 1330.<sup>57</sup> The tenants in

<sup>21</sup> The 'Cattle Brook' of the 6-in. O.S. map.

<sup>22</sup> Probably Rouncil, or Roundshill, Lane.

<sup>23</sup> Exch. K.R. Misc. Bks. 15, fol. 25.

<sup>24</sup> Tax. Eccl. (Rec. Com.), 254.

<sup>25</sup> The earliest known occurrence of this form is in 1285: *Place-Names of Warwick*, 190.

<sup>26</sup> *Mon. Bailiffi Acc't*, (Dugd. Soc.), 41; cf. *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 64; *Mon. Angl.* vi, 225.

<sup>27</sup> L. and P. Hen. VIII, xvi, 729.

<sup>28</sup> Cal. Pat. 1553, p. 179.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid. 1553-4, p. 129.

<sup>30</sup> Ibid. p. 144.

<sup>31</sup> Pipe R. Soc. n.s. i, 43.

<sup>32</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xi), 9.

<sup>33</sup> Curia Regis R. ii, 259.

<sup>34</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xi), 149.

<sup>35</sup> Bk. of Fees, 508.

<sup>36</sup> Ibid. 956.

<sup>37</sup> Cal. Inq. p.m. i, 453. How Peyvere came in is not known, but he was probably only tenant for a term.

<sup>38</sup> Exch. K.R. Misc. Bks. 15, fol. 25.

<sup>39</sup> Dugd. 269.

<sup>40</sup> Exch. K.R. Misc. Bks. 15, fol. 25 v.

<sup>41</sup> Cal. Chart. R. iii, 487.

<sup>42</sup> L. and P. Hen. VIII, xiii (1), 887 (12).

<sup>43</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* i, 310.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid. 316.

<sup>45</sup> *Ant. Charters* (Pipe R. Soc.), 93.

<sup>46</sup> Bk. of Fees, 508.

<sup>47</sup> Ibid. 957.

<sup>48</sup> Cf. Fulbrook; *V.C.H. Warw.* iii, 93.

<sup>49</sup> Exch. K.R. Misc. Bks. 15, fol. 20.

<sup>50</sup> Dugd. 271.

<sup>51</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xv), 1636.

<sup>52</sup> Ibid. 1835 d.

<sup>53</sup> Dugd. 272.

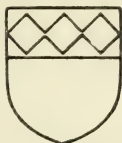
<sup>54</sup> Pipe R. Soc. xxi, 143.

<sup>55</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xi), 205.

<sup>56</sup> Exch. K.R. Misc. Bks. 15, fol. 20.

<sup>57</sup> *Feud. Aids*, vi, 560.

fee at this time were Sir John Mauduit of Somerset and his (second) wife Agnes, who in 1328<sup>58</sup> and again in 1333<sup>59</sup> settled a carucate of land and 6 acres of meadow in Woodcote on themselves in tail male, with contingent remainder to John de Moleyns and Gille his wife (daughter of Sir John Mauduit by his first wife). Sir John died in 1347<sup>60</sup> and Agnes in 1369,<sup>61</sup> and the estate then passed to the Moleyns family, Gille's son Sir William dying in February 1381 seised of rents in Woodcote held of the Duke of Lancaster.<sup>62</sup> His great-grandson's daughter Eleanor in 1440 married Sir Robert Hungerford and, after his attainder in 1464, Sir Oliver Manyngham,<sup>63</sup> and her granddaughter Mary married Sir Edward Hastings. Their son George, created Earl of Huntingdon in 1530, sold the manors of Woodcote and Burton Hastings (q.v.) to Thomas Harvey.<sup>64</sup> He left four daughters as his co-heirs: Dorothy wife of William Croftes, Lucy wife of Thomas Cotton, Joan wife of Hugh Haselrigge, and Barbara wife of John Fowler.<sup>65</sup> Barbara's daughter Ann married John Noel, and in 1626 William Noel conveyed a 'manor' of Woodcote to George Weale.<sup>66</sup> Thomas Cotton and Lucy bought quarters of the manor from Thomas Croftes and Francis Haslerig in 1565,<sup>67</sup> and their great-grandson Sir Thomas Cotton, bart., was dealing with three-quarters of the manor in 1637,<sup>68</sup> as was Thomas Cotton (? his grandson by his second wife) in 1691.<sup>69</sup> In 1730 the site of the manor was held by the Mallory family,<sup>70</sup> and in 1783 Robert Harvey Mallory was dealing with it.<sup>71</sup> On the death of Robert Mallory in 1820 it came to his daughter Harriet Ricardo, who sold it in 1851 to Henry Christopher Wise.<sup>72</sup>



MOLEYNS. *Sable a chief or with three lozenges gulet thereon.*

The manor of Woodcote was acquired by Henry Wise in 1709<sup>73</sup> and remained in his family<sup>74</sup> until the death of George Wise in 1888, when it passed to Maj.-Gen. Sir George Waller, bart. (through the marriage of Catharine, eldest daughter of the Rev. Henry Wise to his father, Sir Thomas Wathen Waller, bart.), from whom it descended to Sir Wathen Arthur Waller, bart.<sup>75</sup> who died in 1947.

The two Woodcotes are among the hamlets mentioned by John Rous at the end of the 15th century as having been completely depopulated.<sup>76</sup>

The Count of Meulan held 1 hide in 'Rincel' (Rinsell, Rouncil, or Roundhill) which in 1086 was uncultivated woodland.<sup>77</sup> This may have been the hide in 'Hetha' given apparently by the count's brother Henry, Earl of Warwick, to the church of All Saints and by his son Earl Roger in 1123 to his College of St. Mary at Warwick.<sup>78</sup> Part of this land, lying on either side of the Holebrook, was granted, as already

mentioned,<sup>79</sup> by Odo de Turri to Kenilworth Priory as 'the land of the Heath'. In 1279 Thomas de Edensore, one of the Savage co-heirs, was 'lord of the Heath (*Brucra*)',<sup>80</sup> but there seems no reason to accept Dugdale's identification of this with the Leek Wootton Heath,<sup>81</sup> the evidence pointing to its being part of Baginton.

The church of *ALL SAINTS* is situated *CHURCH* on a slope at the south end of the village on the west side of the Warwick-Kenilworth road, in a small churchyard. The old church was pulled down in 1789 and the present church built on the site in the gothic style near the close of the 18th century. It has since been restored and added to; a new chancel was built in 1843, the roof raised in 1864, and in 1889 the nave was lengthened. It now consists of chancel (28 ft. 6 in. by 18 ft.), nave (57 ft. by 27 ft.), west tower (13 ft. by 13 ft.), vestry, and south porch.

The chancel is built of light-coloured sandstone ashlar with angle buttresses, and below the east window is a two-light window to a chamber built to make up for the fall in the ground from west to east. The nave is also of ashlar, but of a less regular character than the later chancel, and has a plain parapet with crocketed pinnacles at intervals. The windows are all of a late gothic character. The chancel and nave both have open timber roofs of a steep pitch covered with tiles. The tower is in three stages with moulded string-courses at each stage and angle buttresses reaching to the base of the parapet, which is battlemented, with crocketed pinnacles at the angles. The south porch has angle buttresses and a tiled roof. The vestry is on the north side of the chancel. The pulpit is modern panelled oak, and the oak chancel screen was erected in 1929; an octagonal, panelled, stone font is placed under the tower arch. No trace of the earlier church remains, but in the churchyard is a 12th-century tapered circular font and part of a stone coffin. There are a number of 18th- and 19th-century mural tablets.

The plate consists of chalice with cover, tazzas with cover, and a flagon, all silver-gilt, presented by Alice, Duchess Dudley, hall-mark 1638. This exceptionally magnificent set is identical with the set given to Kenilworth at the same time.<sup>82</sup>

The registers begin 4 July 1581.

The church of Leek Wootton was *ADPOWSON* given by Geoffrey de Clinton to the

Priory of Kenilworth, with the chapel of Leamington and pensions from the formerly dependent chapels of Ashow (20s.), Cubbington ( $\frac{1}{2}$  mark), Lillington ( $\frac{1}{4}$  mark), and Milverton (1 mark).<sup>83</sup> In 1204, when the knight's fee of Wootton was in dispute, the prior registered his claim to the church,<sup>84</sup> and this was acknowledged in the settlement of the dispute.<sup>85</sup> The church was appropriated to the priory and was valued in 1291 at £5 6s. 8d.<sup>86</sup> In 1535 the rectory was farmed for £12<sup>87</sup> and the vicarage was worth £5 12s.,

<sup>58</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xv), 1656.

<sup>59</sup> Ibid. 1761.

<sup>60</sup> G. E. C. *Complete Peerage* (2nd ed.), ix, 39.

<sup>61</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ix, 34.

<sup>62</sup> Ibid. xii, 395.

<sup>63</sup> G. E. C. op. cit. vi, 620. Cf. Early Chan. Proc. 38, no. 252.

<sup>64</sup> Dugd. 272.

<sup>65</sup> Nichols, *Licet.* iv, 608.

<sup>66</sup> Feet of F. Warw. East. 2 Chas. I.

<sup>67</sup> Ibid. Div. Cos. Hil. 7 Eliz.; Mich. 7 & 8 Eliz.

<sup>68</sup> Ibid. Warw. East. 13 Chas. I.

<sup>69</sup> Recov. R. Trin. 3 Wm. & M. ro. 31. Dugd. 272.

<sup>70</sup> Recov. R. Trin. 23 Geo. III, ro. 46.

<sup>71</sup> *Nates on . . . Leek Wootton*, 29.

<sup>72</sup> Recov. R. Trin. 8 Anne, ro. 185. The vouchers were Vincent and Richard Grantham.

<sup>73</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations, 1766-82.

<sup>74</sup> *Notes on . . . Leek Wootton*, 30.

<sup>75</sup> Rous, *Hist. Regum Angliae* (1744), 123.

<sup>76</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* i, 310.

<sup>78</sup> *Mon. Angl.* vi, 1327.

<sup>79</sup> See above, n. 20.

<sup>80</sup> Exch. K.R. Misc. Bks. 15, fol. 12 v. Dugd. 271.

<sup>81</sup> It is described and figured by Mr. P. B. Chatwin in *Birm. Arch. Soc. Trans.* lviii, 63-4, pl. xii.

<sup>82</sup> *Cal. Chant.* R. iii, 277; Harl. MS. 3650, fol. 34, 38.

<sup>83</sup> *Curia Regis* R. iii, 112.

<sup>84</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xi), 149.

<sup>85</sup> *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 241.

<sup>86</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 64.

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in addition to 8s. paid for procurations and synodals.<sup>88</sup> The vicarage was among those augmented, to the extent of £20 yearly, by Lady Alice Dudley.<sup>89</sup> After the Dissolution the advowson followed the descent of the Grange manor, being now in the hands of Lord Leigh.

Upon a tablet in the belfry of the *CHARITIES* church it appears that a person, whose name and date of gift are not known owing to mutilation of the tablet, gave 40s., the interest to the poor for ever.

That in 1713 Samuel Mallory gave £10, the interest to the poor for ever.

That in 1717 James Hickin gave £12, the interest to the poor half-yearly.

That in 1759 Robert Mallory gave £16, the interest to be distributed half-yearly.

The endowment of the charities is now represented by a sum of £109 10s. 5d. 2½ per cent. Treasury Stock 1975 or after, and the income thereon amounting to

£2 14s. 8d. is remitted to the vicar of Leek Wootton and two persons appointed by the parish council, the trustees of the charities.

Alice, Duchess Dudley. For particulars of this charity see under parish of Ashow. The share of the charity applicable for this parish consists of one-seventeenth part of the income, amounting to £37 13s. 4d. annually, to be applied under various heads for the general benefit of the poor of the parish.

Church Land. By an Inclosure Award dated 27 March 1822 two allotments in Leek Wootton were awarded to the vicar and churchwardens upon general terms and without any particular trusts. The land was sold in 1876 and the proceeds of sale invested. The annual income of the charity amounting to £3 4s. 10d. is used for general church purposes.

John Stanley Ledbrook by will dated 15 May 1930 bequeathed to the vicar and churchwardens £100 2½ per cent. Consols, the income to be applied for the benefit of the poor of the parish.

## MARTON

Acreage: 1,064.

Population: 1911, 376; 1921, 392; 1931, 379.

Marton is a small parish and village 7 miles north-east of Leamington Spa. The north and west boundaries of the parish are respectively formed by the rivers Leam and Itchen, which unite close to the church. The compact village stands between the two rivers, where the Southam-Coventry road is joined by a by-road from Birdingbury and Leamington Hastings. At the confluence of the rivers the ground is just under 200 ft. above sea level, but it rises to over 250 ft. in the south-east of the parish, beyond the Rugby-Leamington branch of the former L.M. & S.R., which crosses the parish diagonally and has a station about half a mile from the village, by the bridge over the Southam road.

In early times Marton was a place of some importance as the centre of a hundred. This was functioning at the time of the Domesday Survey and continued until about the end of the 12th century,<sup>1</sup> after which time it was absorbed into the Hundred of Knightlow, of which it formed one of the Leets. The meeting-place of the hundred must have been at 'Spelestowe' (i.e. 'the place of speech'), where Amice daughter of Henry Lovel gave land to Nuneaton Priory c. 1220.<sup>2</sup> Over and Nether Spelestowe in Marton also occur in a deed of about the same date.<sup>3</sup>

In 1251 the priores and nuns of Catesby (Northants.) were given free transit by the bridge of Marton, quit of pontage.<sup>4</sup> In 1414 the bridge was rebuilt in stone by John Middleton, a native of Marton who had become a mercer in London, and the tolls hitherto levied for its repair were therefore given up.<sup>5</sup> At the Quarter Sessions of Easter 1625 it was reported that this bridge had been repaired by John Harrys of Fillongley for the considerable sum of £51 13s. 4d., but it was 'in great decay' again a generation later, orders being given for its repair in 1661 for £20.<sup>6</sup> The present Marton Bridge crosses the river Leam from east to west just before it enters the Itchen. It has long approaches with two spans over the river and a flood-arch in both

approaches. It was built in the 15th century, and later the western approach was canted to the north, re-using the old materials, to conform better with the road. Recently the bridge has been widened on the downstream side with one flat concrete span and the western approach canted still farther to the north. It is built of sandstone ashlar with segmental-pointed arches of two splayed orders over the stream, the splays dying out on the cutwater and on the abutments, which have been splayed to correspond with the cutwater. This is rather an unusual arrangement, as it recesses the arches and consequently restricts the carriage-way. The flood-arches, which are similar to those across the stream, have been treated in the same manner by splaying their abutments. Most of the low parapet wall has been rebuilt from time to time, and on the west with red brick.

In 1406 Thomas Palmer of Frankton received pardon for having with Richard Milward, also of Frankton, feloniously killed William Hemery the younger at Marton. He was also implicated in the murder of William Hemery the elder by John Walshe-man of Frankton.<sup>7</sup> Six years later Palmer was again pardoned for having broken into the house of Thomas Smyth of Marton, seized John Ofchurch the younger, taken him to a place called le hundred place<sup>8</sup> and robbed him of a sword worth 6s. 8d. and a bow and 11 arrows worth 5s.<sup>9</sup>

It is possible that the three small estates *MANORS* of the Count of Meulan, of 1½ hides held by Mereuin, and of 1 hide and 1 virgate, and ½ hide held by Wallef, in possession of Wallef and other Saxons before the Conquest,<sup>10</sup> relate to Marton, though the spelling 'Mortone' is hard to reconcile with that of the Hundred, which is consistently 'Meretone'.

In any case, the earls of Warwick, successors of the Count of Meulan, were later the overlords of *MARTON*. The grant of the church to Nuneaton Priory by Robert de Craft was about 1160 confirmed by William, Earl of Warwick, with the assent of the

<sup>88</sup> *Favor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 70.

<sup>89</sup> Dugd. 269.

<sup>1</sup> Pipe R. down to 1194. Cf. *Place-Names of Warwick*, 123.

<sup>2</sup> Add. Chart. 48311. <sup>3</sup> *Ibid.* 48318.

<sup>4</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1247-58, p. 120.

<sup>5</sup> *Cal. Close*, 1413-19, p. 125.

<sup>6</sup> *Warw. Co. Records*, i, 3-4; iv, 155.

<sup>7</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1405-8, p. 166.

<sup>8</sup> Perhaps the old Spelestowe, but more probably the court place of Knightlow in

Ryton-on-Dunsmore.

<sup>9</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1408-13, p. 382.

<sup>10</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* i, 314-15, and note. These estates are treated under Hill-morton above, p. 109.



earl's tenant Hugh son of Richard, in whose fee it lay.<sup>11</sup> In 1235-6 Ralph de Marchameleg<sup>12</sup> held a fee here of the earl,<sup>13</sup> as in 1242-3 did Thomas de Clinton.<sup>14</sup> Half a knight's fee was held by Ralph Basset of Sapcote (Leics.) in 1315.<sup>15</sup> A final reference to the overlordship of half a fee in Marton by the earls of Warwick occurs in 1401,<sup>16</sup> when it was held by Sir William Beauchamp.

The Clinton interest does not appear again. Marchamley may have held in right of his wife, as in 1280 John Engaine and his wife Joan<sup>17</sup> had lands and rents in Marton which had come to them from her grandmother Joan de Marchamley.<sup>18</sup> They in 1290 sold to William de Hamelton, Archdeacon of York,<sup>19</sup> for conveyance to Nuneaton Priory, these lands which they held of Sir Nicholas de Chameles, who held of Simon Basset, whose tenure must have derived from Amice Basset, daughter of Robert de Craft.<sup>20</sup> The transaction was confirmed by Simon,<sup>21</sup> and in 1297 by William, Earl of Warwick.<sup>22</sup>

The priory of Nuneaton held fairly extensive property in Marton besides the church. As early as 1202 Mabel, the prioress, granted a messuage to Robert Palmer and his heirs for 16d. yearly for all services.<sup>23</sup> Later prioresses made leases of the manor of Marton to Robert Tankard in 1342<sup>24</sup> and to William Hancock in 1517.<sup>25</sup> The total value of the Nuneaton property, excluding the rectory, was in 1535 £12 16s. 3d.,<sup>26</sup> and in 1546-7 £13 18s. 11d.<sup>27</sup> In 1542 John Higford of Henwood obtained a 21-year lease of 'Neperke croft' in Marton and the grain rents of the Nuneaton manor for a yearly rent of 114s. 8d.<sup>28</sup> The manor itself was not granted out of crown hands till 1557, when its value was £14 or 7½d., the recipients being Peter Temple of Burton Dassett and Michael Cameswell of Newland in Exhall.<sup>29</sup> Marton with two other manors was then rated at one-fortieth of a knight's fee. In the same year Temple and Cameswell received licence to grant this manor to John 'Whood' the elder, Richard Bagley and Thomas Badcocke, their heirs and assigns.<sup>30</sup> Wood had licence in 1560 to settle it on himself and his wife Agnes for life in survivorship, remainder to Robert Wood, his younger son,<sup>31</sup> who died in possession in 1577,<sup>32</sup> and Thomas, Robert's son conveyed it to Thomas Wilcock in 1596.<sup>33</sup> Four years later Wilcock granted it to Richard Walter,<sup>34</sup> after which date it followed the same descent as the Chalcombe manor, though the two are still mentioned as separate in the conveyance to the Biddulph family in 1700.

Hugh de Chaucombe granted an undertenancy of all his lands here to Chalcombe Priory (Northants.);<sup>35</sup> this must have been about the end of the 12th or

beginning of the 13th century, as in 1217 the sheriff of Warwickshire was ordered to restore to the priory the lands they had held before the wars of the late reign, of which they had been unjustly deprived by William Basset.<sup>36</sup> These lands cannot have been of any great extent, as the total possessions of the monastery in Warwickshire were worth only £7 3s. 6d. in 1535.<sup>37</sup> They may, perhaps, be identified with a manor of Marton which was passed by John Gold of Welton (Northants.) and Alice his wife to Thomas Oldfield in 1550.<sup>38</sup> This manor remained with the Oldfield family for about half a century, Roland Oldfield dealing with it in 1592,<sup>39</sup> and with his son Roland selling it to John Davies of Watford (Northants.) in 1606,<sup>40</sup> who in turn sold it to Richard Walter ten years later.<sup>41</sup> Richard Walter is mentioned as lord of the manor of Marton in 1639 and 1647.<sup>42</sup> Thomas Walter, his grandson, was party to a recovery in 1667,<sup>43</sup> and with his son Edward and daughters Alice, Bridget, and Mary, conveyed the manor to Simon Biddulph of Birdingbury in 1700,<sup>44</sup> in whose family it has since remained.<sup>45</sup>

In 1545 John Hales of Coventry was granted the possessions of St. John Baptist Hospital of that city in Marton,<sup>46</sup> but there seems to be no record of how and when the hospital acquired them, or their value.

The church of ST. ESPRIT is situated CHURCH on the west side of the Southam-Coventry road at the junction of the River Leam with the Itchen and stands in a small churchyard near the centre of the village. It was almost entirely rebuilt in the gothic style in 1871 and all that remains of the earlier church is the lower stage of the tower and the south arcade, both of the mid-14th century, together with an early-13th-century south doorway. The present church consists of a chancel, nave, north and south aisles, west tower, organ-chamber, and south porch. It is built of squared and coursed limestone with sandstone dressings and all the roofs are tiled.

The lower part of the east wall of the chancel still retains some of the earlier walling of roughly coursed rubble with red sandstone dressings. It is lighted on the east by a pointed tracery window of three ogee trefoil lights and by a two-light on the south, both with hood-moulds. The east wall of the south aisle has a single trefoil light; the south side a three-light and a single light with trefoil heads; the west a similar window, but with two lights. The porch has a pointed entrance arch, the mouldings continued down to splayed stops. The 13th-century doorway has a pointed arch of two orders, the inner a splay and the outer a large roll-moulding, supported on detached shafts with moulded capitals and splayed impost, the

<sup>11</sup> Ibid. ii, 67; Add. Chart. 48300.

<sup>12</sup> Sir Ralph de Marchameleg agreed to hedge certain meadows in Colemanesham and Ruggesham in Marton and to pay tithes to Nuneaton: Add. Chart. 48312.

<sup>13</sup> Book of Fees, 508.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid. 956.

<sup>15</sup> Cal. Inq. p.m. v, 615 (p. 405).

<sup>16</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. 2 Hen. IV, 58.

<sup>17</sup> She was daughter and heir of Gilbert de Greyville: Cal. Inq. p.m. iv, 128; C. E. C. Complete Peerage, v, 73.

<sup>18</sup> Assize R. 956, m. 3.

<sup>19</sup> Add. Chats., 48339, 48343.

<sup>20</sup> Roll of Justices in Eyre... in Warwick. (Selden Soc.), 1468.

<sup>21</sup> Add. Chart. 48344.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid. 48352.

<sup>23</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xi), 122.

<sup>24</sup> Add. Chart. 48425.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid. 48486.

<sup>26</sup> Valor Eccl. (Rec. Com.), iii, 76.

<sup>27</sup> Mon. Accts. (Dugd. Soc. ii), 70.

<sup>28</sup> L. and P. Hen. V, iii, xvii, p. 699.

Higford was involved in a suit regarding these rents with Peter Temple, a subsequent grantee of the manor, in 1556: E. Chan. Proc. 1440-51. Newpark croft with the site of the manor and all appurtenances had been let before the Dissolution for the same sum to Richard Hencotes: Mon. Accts. (Dugd. Soc.), 70.

<sup>29</sup> Cal. Pat. 1557-8, pp. 210-17.

<sup>30</sup> Ibid. p. 242.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid. 1558-60, p. 381.

<sup>32</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), clxxxiii, 88.

<sup>33</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 39-40 Eliz.

<sup>34</sup> Dugd. 326.

<sup>35</sup> Dugdale, Mon. Angl. vi, 428.

<sup>36</sup> Rot. Litt. Claus. (Rec. Com.), 313.

William Basset was, perhaps, the grandfather of the Ralph mentioned above.

<sup>37</sup> Valor Eccl. (Rec. Com.), iv, 338.

<sup>38</sup> Feet of F. Div. Cos. Mich. 4 Edw. VI.

<sup>39</sup> Ibid. Warw. Hil. 34 Eliz.

<sup>40</sup> Ibid. Warw. East. 4 Jas. I.

<sup>41</sup> Dugd. 326, quoting MSS. of Walter family.

<sup>42</sup> Warw. Co. Records, ii, 50, 178.

<sup>43</sup> Recov. R. Mich. 3 Jas. II, m. 1.

<sup>44</sup> Dugd. 326-7.

<sup>45</sup> White, Directory Warw., 1850, p. 694; Kelly, 1900.

<sup>46</sup> L. and P. Hen. V, iii, xx, 1335 (39).

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

outer jamb is chamfered, with a moulded stop below the impost moulding.

The tower is in three stages without buttresses and it diminishes with a splayed offset to the second stage. From half way up the second stage it has been entirely rebuilt in a light-coloured sandstone ashlar. The original walls are built of coursed limestone rubble with red sandstone dressings and, except on the north side, bands of red sandstone in the middle of the first stage and again at the base of the second stage. The west face has a narrow trefoil ogee-headed window in the first stage, and in the second a narrow lancet to the ringing-chamber. The belfry has windows with pointed arches on each face, of two trefoil lights, labels with head-stops, and a string-course at the sill level. Above is a plain battlemented parapet on a moulded string-course. A modern lobby has been built at the junction of the tower with the south aisle to give an external entrance to the tower.

The chancel (18 ft. 6 in. by 14 ft.) has a tiled floor, a collar-beam roof, plastered walls, and two steps to the altar. The east window has a pointed moulded rear-arch supported on shafts with moulded capitals and bases and a hood-mould with foliated stops. On the north side there is an arched opening into the organ-chamber.

The nave (31 ft. 7 in. by 19 ft. 6 in.) has a hammer-beam roof and a tiled floor. The 14th-century arcade has two bays of pointed arches of two splayed orders supported on octagonal pillars with moulded capitals and bases, the responds repeat the arch splays and have similar moulded capitals and bases. The north arcade is a copy of the south but with more elaborately moulded capitals. Above the apex of each arch there is a pointed two-light clearstory window with widely splayed jambs and sills. The tower arch has been replaced with a modern low segmental one of two splayed orders. The chancel arch is pointed, of three splayed orders supported on three attached shafts with foliated capitals and splayed bases.

The north and south aisles (31 ft. 10 in. by 8 ft. 6 in.) have lean-to roofs, tiled floors, and windows with rear-arches of three trefoils supported on shafts with moulded capitals and bases. At the eastern end of the south wall a badly mutilated 14th-century piscina has been built in.

The tower (10 ft. 9 in. by 7 ft.) has been strengthened by increasing the thickness of the north and south walls and carrying over a segmental vault.

The pulpit, placed on the south side of the chancel arch, is octagonal, of stone and coloured marble with open traceried panels. The font is also of stone with an octagonal basin, sunk trefoil panels, and stands on an octagonal coloured marble stem moulded at the base.

The communion plate is modern except for one large and one small silver paten with hall mark 1773.

There are three bells<sup>47</sup> by Hugh Watts, dated 1616, 1623, and 1624.

The registers begin in 1660.

Between 1155 and 1160 Robert de ADVOWSON Craft, with the assent of Hugh son of Richard (of Hutton), granted the church of Marton to the Priory of Nuneaton,<sup>48</sup> his gift being confirmed by William, Earl of Warwick.<sup>49</sup> Although this is the first known reference to the church it is probable that it was a 'hundredal' church, an early mission-centre serving a wide district;<sup>50</sup> for Bishop Richard of Coventry in about 1170 notified the decree of a synod at Coventry that the following villi ought to pay 'churchamber' of corn to the church of Marton: Rugby, Causton, Dunchurch, and Thurlaston, of the fee of the Earl of Warwick; Willoughby, Leamington (Hastings); 'Hulla' (Hill in Leamington Hastings), of the fee of Abington; Grandborough, of the fee of Water Croc; Wolhamcote, Flecknoe, Calcutt, Napton 'de terra Moysi'; Ladbroke on the land of William and of Henry Boscher; Hodnell, of the fee of Hugh son of Richard; the other Hodnell of the land of Gurmund; the third Hodnell; Radbourne, of the fee of Hugh de Arden; Shuckborough, of the land of Robert; the other Shuckborough; and Hunningham.<sup>51</sup> The only chapel attached to it, however, seems to have been Hunningham, which the convent of Nuneaton about this time made over to the Priory of Monks Kirby.<sup>52</sup> The rectory seems to have been appropriated and a vicarage ordained about 1277,<sup>53</sup> and in 1291 the church is entered as appropriated to Nuneaton and valued at £4 13s. 4d.<sup>54</sup> Small bequests were made in the 13th century to the lights of the Holy Spirit<sup>55</sup> and of the Blessed Virgin Mary<sup>56</sup> in the church; and in 1351 the convent leased 17½ acres to William son of Nicholas le Graund, 'our clerk of our priory', Emma his wife and William their son, who were to maintain two lamps burning in the chancel during service.<sup>57</sup> In 1535 the rectory was farmed at £6 13s. 4d.,<sup>58</sup> and the vicarage was worth £7 14s. 8d.<sup>59</sup>

The rectory and advowson were in 1545 granted to Thomas Marow of Rudfen,<sup>60</sup> who four years later had licence to convey them to Nicholas Hussey and John Fetherston for the use of himself, his wife and heirs.<sup>61</sup> By 1619 they had come into possession of Sir Clement Fisher of Great Packington,<sup>62</sup> in whose family they remained for most of the 17th century.<sup>63</sup> In or before 1699 Francis Fisher married Mary widow of Sir Samuel Marow, and must have settled the advowson on her, she and her daughter Elizabeth Marow being parties to a lawsuit concerning the vicarage in 1702,<sup>64</sup> and the latter making presentations up to 1744.<sup>65</sup> It then passed to the Knightley family of Offchurch, into which Elizabeth's younger sister Mary had married.<sup>66</sup> The marriage (1846) of Jane Wightwick Knightley to the 6th Earl of Aylesford<sup>67</sup> brought it to the latter family, who were patrons in 1850.<sup>68</sup> Since this date it has changed hands several times, being now vested, with the living of Birdingbury with which it was united in 1929, in the Bishop of Coventry.<sup>69</sup>

of the parties in the latter fine was Elias Walter, uncle of Thomas Walter who was lord of the manor in 1687.

<sup>48</sup> Chan. Proc. 1612-1714, 254/26.

<sup>49</sup> Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.).

<sup>50</sup> G. E. C. Compl. Baronetage, iv, 110.

<sup>51</sup> G. E. C. Compl. Peerage, 2nd ed. i, 366.

<sup>52</sup> White, *Directory Warw.* 694.

<sup>53</sup> Crookford, 1926.

<sup>47</sup> Tilley and Walters, *Church Bells of Warw.* 188.

<sup>48</sup> Add. Chart. 48299.

<sup>49</sup> Ibid. 48300.

<sup>50</sup> Marton was also the title of a rural deanery.

<sup>51</sup> Add. Chart. 48304.

<sup>52</sup> Ibid. 48303.

<sup>53</sup> Ibid. 48336.

<sup>54</sup> Tax. Eccl. (Rec. Com.), 241.

<sup>55</sup> Add. Chart. 48357.

<sup>56</sup> Ibid. 48385.

<sup>57</sup> Ibid. 48441.

<sup>58</sup> *Faler Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 76.

<sup>59</sup> Ibid. 63.

<sup>60</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xx (1), 1081 (47).

<sup>61</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1549-51, p. 59.

<sup>62</sup> Chan. Ing. p.m. (Ser. 2), ccccxxii.

<sup>63</sup> 135.

<sup>64</sup> Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.); Feet of F. Warw.

Trin. 1566, and Trin. 14 Chas. II. One



MARTON CHURCH, c. 1820



MONKS KIRBY CHURCH: TOMB OF BASIL FEILDING AND HIS WIFE



William Fawkes. The Returns to CHARITIES Parliament in 1786 mention a gift of

William Fawkes in 1730, by his will, of land to the poor, then yielding £2 per annum. The charity is also recorded in a churchwardens' book of the parish as consisting of a rent-charge of £2 per annum issuing out of land in Grandborough, payable on St. Thomas's Day.

Unknown Donor. The Returns to Parliament also mention a gift to the poor of £5 10s. in money, by an unknown benefactor. In 1512 the sum of £6 2s. 9d., representing the endowment of the charity, was upon the application of the then trustees invested in the name of the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds, the income to be accumulated and invested in augmentation of the endowment until a sum of stock was acquired sufficient to produce an annual income of at least 10s. The funds have now been invested and yield 15s. yearly.<sup>70</sup>

Mary Turner by will dated 24 September 1607 charged certain property in Solihull with the annual payment of £3 6s. 8d. for the relief of the poor, im-

potent, and most needy people dwelling in the parishes of Kenilworth, Stivichall, Baginton, Stoneleigh, Bubbenthall, Ryton, Woolston, Stretton, Marton, and Wappenbury. The sum of 6s. 8d. to be paid to the churchwardens and overseers of each parish for distribution in accordance with the directions contained in the will. The rent-charge was redeemed in 1923 in consideration of a sum of £133 6s. 8d. Consols producing an annual income of £3 6s. 8d.

The trustees of the above-mentioned charities are appointed by the parish council of Marton.

Church Land. On the inclosure of the common fields of this parish which took place in 1803 an allotment of 3 a. 3 r. was awarded in lieu of lands which had theretofore been used for the repairs of the church, but the origin of which is unknown. It is stated in the printed Parliamentary Reports of the Commissioners for Inquiring Concerning Charities dated 1827 that in addition to the above-mentioned land there are received two small rents of 8s. and 2s. 6d. arising out of small parcels of land respectively situated in Eathorpe and Hunningham, the origin of both being unknown.

## MONKS KIRBY

Area: 10,016.<sup>1</sup>

Population: 1911, 1,396; 1921, 1,355; 1931, 1,459.

This extensive parish, which has a length of 6 miles from north to south and a maximum breadth of 4½ miles, lies largely between the two Roman roads, the Fosse Way and Watling Street, which intersect at High Cross, the Roman station of Venonae.<sup>2</sup> The parish consists of a large block, to the northern tip of which is attached a roughly diamond-shaped extension, the hamlet or chapelry of Great Copston (1,144 acres). The south-east and north-east sides of this diamond are formed respectively by the Fosse Way and Watling Street, meeting at High Cross, from which point a road runs west for a mile to the hamlet of Copston with its church of St. John; the south-west side is formed by Mere Lane which meets the Fosse Way at Cloudesley Bush. Here there was formerly a tumulus, which Dugdale, with less than his usual good sense, guessed to commemorate some Roman Claudius.<sup>3</sup> Mere Lane is continued as Coal Pit Lane, which for 2 miles forms the north-eastern boundary of Monks Kirby, till it meets the Watling Street, down which the parish, and county, boundary runs for 1½ miles to Bransford Bridge over the River Swift, whose tortuous course it then follows to the south-west. The Fosse Way forms the western boundary for two miles south from Cloudesley Bush; for the next 2 miles the parish boundary runs somewhat to the west of the Way as far as Smite Brook. On the south it follows Cathrion Lane,<sup>4</sup> runs up a small stream to the high ridge (455 ft.) of Montilo's Lane, leading south from Little Walton through Pailton Fields, and down another stream on the other side of the lane into the Swift.

The country is undulating, lying for the most part between 300 ft. and 400 ft., with a number of spinneys and coppices in the north, along Coal Pit Lane, and

the two extensive parks of Newnham Paddox and Newbold Revel.

The village of Monks Kirby lies at the junction of a number of small roads, with the Smite Brook, just east of it, running southwards past Street Ashton to the village and township of Stretton-under-Fosse (1,231 acres), where there is a church mission-room and a Congregational chapel, originally founded in 1662 and rebuilt in 1789.<sup>5</sup> Across the Brook, east of the church, lies the small hamlet of Brockhurst, on the edge of Newnham Paddox Park. From the village a road running south-west to Stretton is crossed by one eastwards to the populous township of Pailton (1,756 acres) with its church of St. Denis, built in 1884, and a Baptist chapel. A road leads south from Pailton and branches south-eastwards to the neighbouring parish of Great Harborough and south-westwards to the village and township of Easenhall (1,135 acres), lying on the south-eastern edge of the grounds of Newbold Revel, which extend for a mile north-west to Stretton-under-Fosse. Easenhall is cut by the Trent Valley section of the old L.M.S. Railway, Brinklow Station being within its bounds, and by the Oxford Canal. On the east side of the parish the Leicester and Rugby branch of the railway runs north and south, passing close to the moated site of Cesters Over, where 'Old Town Field' marks the site of the depopulated hamlet.<sup>6</sup>

The Cesters Over corn-mill on the River Swift is doubtless the successor of the mill attached to that manor in 1086 and then valued at 2s. 7 Both a water-mill and a windmill belonged to the manor in 1545.<sup>8</sup> In 1291 the priory of Monks Kirby had a water-mill at Copston and a windmill at Kirby,<sup>9</sup> and there was still a windmill attached to the manor in 1721.<sup>10</sup> Another windmill, at Newbold Revel, is mentioned in

<sup>70</sup> *Ex inf.* the Rev. A. Wilbraham.

<sup>1</sup> Certain adjustments between this parish and that of Lutterworth (Leics.) in 1934 have reduced the acreage to 9,829: Kelly, *Directory of Warwick*, 1936.

<sup>2</sup> *V.C.H. Warwick*, i, 232. The site is marked by the remains of a cross set up by the 4th Earl of Denbigh in 1712 to

commemorate the restoration of peace in that year.

<sup>3</sup> Dugd. 92.

<sup>4</sup> Kathiam Lane in 1633 (*Warw. Ct. Recs.* vi, 16); Katherine Lane in 1662 (*ibid.* 170).

<sup>5</sup> Kelly, *Directory of Warwick*; White, *Directory of Warwick*.

<sup>6</sup> For air photographs showing traces of this vanished settlement see *Country Life*, 15 Oct. 1948.

<sup>7</sup> *V.C.H. Warwick*, i, 337.

<sup>8</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 37 Hen. VIII.

<sup>9</sup> *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 256.

<sup>10</sup> *Recov. R.* Hil. 8 Geo. I, ro. 59.

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

1538<sup>11</sup> and 1593,<sup>12</sup> as is one at Pailton in 1587.<sup>13</sup> Pailton corn-mill, with its large mill-pond fed by the Smite Brook is close to Street Ashton, and the water-mill at Street Ashton given by John Hubbok, chaplain, to his sister Lucy de Strutarston in 1305<sup>14</sup> may be identical with the mill in Pailton which John Dayse of Street Ashton gave to Sir John Revel in 1341.<sup>15</sup>

Newnham Paddox, the seat of the Earls of Denbigh, was so much altered in about 1875 that architecturally it can only be called a fine modern house, remarkable for its pictures and other furnishings, and for its setting in ornamental grounds, and an extensive park. The famous wrought-iron gates, which have been described as 'perhaps the largest and most beautiful gates in the kingdom',<sup>16</sup> were only brought here in 1873 from Berwick House near Shrewsbury and came originally from a Spanish monastery.<sup>17</sup>

Newbold Revel,<sup>18</sup> built for Sir Fulwar Skipwith at the beginning of the 18th century, is a fine house typical of the period, very little altered since its erection. The main block is recessed between two wings, which project more deeply on the west than on the east. Above the third story is an open baluster parapet crowned with stone vases, and on the east front the central block is surmounted by a triangular pediment. The grounds are of great charm and contain some remarkable carved stone vases.

Kirby was one, and the most important, *MANORS* of the estates which had been held by Lewin (i.e. Leofwine) before the Norman Conquest and after that event had been acquired by Geoffrey de Wirce, or de la Guerche,<sup>19</sup> probably through his marriage with Alvea (i.e. Ælfifu). Geoffrey rebuilt the church here and on the day of its dedication, 1 July 1077, he with the consent of his wife gave it with its furnishings and (the services of) its priest called Frano to the abbot and convent of St. Nicholas of Angers; he also granted them the reversion of everything that Osgot, another priest, held of him, on his death or cession. In Kirby he gave them 20 acres of cornland, and the vill of Copston.<sup>20</sup> Accordingly in 1086 'the monks of St. Nicholas' are recorded as having 2 plough-teams and 22 villeins and 6 bordars with 5 ploughs, as part of Geoffrey's manor of *KIRBY*, which was rated at 15 hides.<sup>21</sup> The '2 priests' among Geoffrey's tenants may have been Frano and Osgot. The lands of Geoffrey de Wirce on his death came into the hands of the king, who granted them to Niel d'Aubigny. Niel, his son Roger de Mowbray, and the latter's son Niel all confirmed and increased the holding of the abbey in Kirby,<sup>22</sup> where monks of Angers were established as a cell of the abbey, forming the alien priory<sup>23</sup> of *MONKS KIRBY*. In 1242 three-quarters of a fee in Kirby was held of Roger de Mowbray by the prior,<sup>24</sup> and in 1291 the temporalities

of the priory included 4 carucates of land, worth £4, in Kirby, a windmill, worth 10s., and fixed rents, £10 13s. 4d.; another 4 carucates in Walton; and in Copston 2 carucates, worth only 30s., a mill, worth 10s., and £2 in rents.<sup>25</sup> In 1266 Henry III had granted the monks a fair at Midsummer and a market at Kirby on Wednesday;<sup>26</sup> for some reason this proved inconvenient and in March 1305, at the request of the monks, the market was altered to Tuesday.<sup>27</sup> At the same time they were granted free warren in Kirby, Walton, and elsewhere; and in October of the same year they were given view of frankpledge for their tenants in Kirby, Cesters Over, Little Newnham, and Walton, and other franchises, for which they were to pay 5 marks yearly at the Exchequer.<sup>28</sup> This payment was still being made by the prior or farmer of Monks Kirby in 1412, when it was assigned for life to Richard Bromer, yeoman of the pantry.<sup>29</sup>

During the wars with France the estates of this alien priory were constantly seized into the king's hand. Sir Canon Robsart, to whom the estates were committed in 1377 by the king at a rental of £40,<sup>30</sup> obtained a lease of them from the monks for 25 years and on his death bequeathed the remainder of the term to his son John.<sup>31</sup> Shortly after this Thomas Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, patron of Monks Kirby Priory, arranged with Sir John Robsart<sup>32</sup> and the abbey of Angers for the transference of the priory's estates to his new foundation of Carthusians in the Isle of Axholme.<sup>33</sup> In 1535 the monks of Axholme were receiving £96 or. 10s. 4d. from their temporalities in Monks Kirby and its members.<sup>34</sup> These, with the other property of the priory, were made over to the king by the prior in 1538<sup>35</sup> and the manor of Monks Kirby was granted in March 1539 to Thomas Mannyn, Bishop of Ipswich.<sup>36</sup> Mannyn was also Master of the College of Mettingham (Suffolk), and in November 1539 Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, bargained with him that if the college were dissolved this manor should pass to him.<sup>37</sup> His daughter Frances, wife of Henry Grey, Duke of Suffolk, died in 1559 and the manor passed to her elder daughter Katherine,<sup>38</sup> who married Edward Seymour, Earl of Hertford. Their grandson William, later Marquess of Hertford, sold the manor to Mary, Countess of Buckingham,<sup>39</sup> who settled it on her grandson Basil, Lord Feilding, created Earl of Denbigh in 1622,<sup>40</sup> in whose family it has since descended.

In 1086 a hide in *NEWNHAM [PADDOX]*<sup>41</sup> was held of Geoffrey de Wirce by Ansegis,<sup>42</sup> who was



FEILDING. Argent a fesse azure with three lozenges or thereon.

<sup>11</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Hil. 30 Hen. VIII.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid. Mich. 35-36 Eliz.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid. Mich. 29-30 Eliz.

<sup>14</sup> Anct. D. (P.R.O.), D. 8568.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid. D. 3612, D. 11180.

<sup>16</sup> *Burm. Arch. Soc. Trans.* xix, 33.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

<sup>18</sup> See S. M. Stanislaus, *Newbold Revel* (1949), and *Country Life*, xiii.

<sup>19</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* i, 275-6.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.; Nichols, *Leic.* ii, app. 125.

<sup>21</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* i, 335-6.

<sup>22</sup> *Mon. Angl.* vi, 996.

<sup>23</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* i, 129.

<sup>24</sup> *Bk. of Feet*, 951.

<sup>25</sup> *Tax. Ecd.* (Rec. Com.), 256.

<sup>26</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1399-1401, p. 177 (a confirmation). The Charter Roll for 50 Hen. III is imperfect, but the actual grant survives in Anct. D. (P.R.O.), B. 12473.

<sup>27</sup> *Cal. Chart.* R. iii, 50.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid. 60.

<sup>29</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1408-13, p. 392.

<sup>30</sup> *Cal. Fine* R. ix, 27.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid. x, 335.

<sup>32</sup> Anct. D. (P.R.O.), D. 4242.

<sup>33</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* ii, 131.

<sup>34</sup> *Valor Ecd.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 135.

<sup>35</sup> Feet of F. Div. Cos. East. 30 Hen.

VIII.

<sup>36</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xiv (1), 651 (57).

<sup>37</sup> Ibid. xiv (2), 442.

<sup>38</sup> *Chan. Inq.* p.m. (Ser. 2), cxviii, 91. Frances had married Adrian Stokes in 1554, and as they had a short-lived child Adrian held the manor after his wife's death.

<sup>39</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 3 Chas. I; ibid. Hil. 8 Chas. I.

<sup>40</sup> Dugd. 77.

<sup>41</sup> The distinctive appellation, which first appears in the 16th century, is supposed to refer to a little park there (not recorded); *Place-Names of Warw.* 114.

<sup>42</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* i, 337.

presumably identical with 'Ansei' who held 4 hides in the adjoining parish of Harborough.<sup>43</sup> From an early date it was held by a family who took their name from the place. Roger de Newnham, who held one fee under Niel de Mowbray,<sup>44</sup> is presumably the Roger, lord of Newnham, son of Aubrey, who granted land here to Monks Kirby Priory, which grant was confirmed by his son William.<sup>45</sup> Philip de Newnham held the fee here at the time of the death of Roger Mowbray in 1297,<sup>46</sup> and was himself dead before 1333, when his widow Julian held one-third of the manor in dower. The reversion of this third was settled in 1333 on Philip de Newnham (apparently grandson of the elder Philip)<sup>47</sup> and Alice his wife in tail.<sup>48</sup> At the same time Roger Ryvel and Joan his wife settled the other two-thirds of the manor on themselves for their lives, and then to Philip and Alice in tail.<sup>49</sup> In each case there were contingent remainders to Philip's brother Robert de Newnham (probably a clerk) for life, and then to his brother John in tail, or to their sisters Joan and Mariot in tail, or to the right heirs of Joan wife of Roger Ryvel, who must have been daughter of the elder and mother of the younger Philip.<sup>50</sup> The manor was held by John Colard in right of his wife Katherine in 1362, when they conveyed it to Walter Withors and Isabel his wife.<sup>51</sup> From their son Ralph Whithors it passed, about 1393, to John Leventhorpe, who (after an abortive conveyance to Thomas Totty)<sup>52</sup> sold it on 11 November 1433 to John Fildyng, or Feilding.<sup>53</sup> In this family, of fabulous antiquity,<sup>54</sup> it has remained until the present time.

John Feilding's grandson Sir Everard<sup>55</sup> died in 1515 seized of the manor of 'Coldenewenham *alias* Padox Newenham', held of Maurice Berkeley (representative of the Mowbrays) as of his manor of Melton Mowbray.<sup>56</sup> His grandson Basil married Goodith, one of the daughters and coheirs of William Willington of Barcheston (q.v.), and died in 1585,<sup>57</sup> leaving a son, Sir William. The latter's grandson, Sir William Feilding, married Susan Villiers, sister of the royal favourite George, Duke of Buckingham, and was created Baron Feilding of Newnham Padox and Viscount Feilding in 1620. On 14 September 1622 he was made Earl of Denbigh, his younger son George being created Earl of Desmond two months later. The earl was killed in a skirmish near Birmingham on 3 April 1643 and was succeeded by his elder son Basil, on whose death without issue in 1675 the estate passed to his nephew William, 3rd Earl of Denbigh and 2nd Earl of Desmond. With his direct descendants Newnham Padox has remained, being the seat of the present Earl of Denbigh.<sup>58</sup>

In 1086 Geoffrey de Wirce held 8 hides in *FENNY*

*NEWBOLD*,<sup>59</sup> which probably included Stretton-under-Fosse, Easenhall, and Pailton. In 1276 it is described as a member of Wappenburg,<sup>60</sup> and it was presumably part of the 5 knights' fees held of Roger de Mowbray by Thomas de Wappenburg in 1166.<sup>61</sup> A later Thomas held 1 fee in Newbold apparently of the king in chief, in 1235.<sup>62</sup> At his death his estates passed to his three sisters.<sup>63</sup> Agnes was mother of Richard de Beyville, to whom she conveyed her rights in 1261.<sup>64</sup> Joan was mother either of Hugh Revel or, more probably, of his wife Alice; the descendants of the third sister, Margaret, seem to have taken the name of Wappenburg. The main manor of Fenny Newbold came to Hugh Revel, whose son William had a grant of free warren in 1299,<sup>65</sup> as did his son



REVEL. *Ermine a chevron gules and a border engrailed sable.*

John in 1327.<sup>66</sup> In 1316 William had made over to John in tail, with contingent remainder to his brother Robert, his estate here, consisting of 16 messuages, 11 virgates of land, with woodland, meadow, pasture, and a mill in Newbold, Easenhall, Stretton and Pailton.<sup>67</sup> This Sir John was a man of some local prominence and knight of the shire in 1351.<sup>68</sup> His three sons leaving no issue, his estates passed to his three daughters and the manor of *NEWBOLD REVEL* was assigned to Alice, who married Sir John Malory of Winwick, Northants.<sup>69</sup> In 1391 Sir John Malory and Alice settled the manor on themselves in tail.<sup>70</sup> It descended to Sir Thomas Malory, whose widow Elizabeth died in 1480 holding it of Richard, Duke of York, in right of his wife Anne, representative of the Mowbrays.<sup>71</sup> It then passed to Sir Thomas's grandson Nicholas, aged 13. Nicholas Malory died on 22 January 1513, having previously settled the reversion of the manor, which he held of Sir Maurice Berkeley, on his elder daughter Dorothy and her husband Edward Cave.<sup>72</sup> It seems, however, to have been divided between the two daughters of Nicholas, as Margery, the younger, with her second husband John Cope in 1537 sold their share to Thomas Pope.<sup>73</sup> He sold it in the following year to Sir William Whorwood, Solicitor-General,<sup>74</sup> who also bought the share of Dorothy from her and her second husband George Ashby.<sup>75</sup> Whorwood's daughter Margaret married Thomas Throckmorton, and they sold the manor in 1593 to Robert Stanford.<sup>76</sup> His son Charles sold it in 1608 to Elizabeth Alderford, widow.<sup>77</sup> Her son, by a previous husband Edward Morgan, is said to have sold it to Sir Simon Clarke,<sup>78</sup> whose widow conveyed it to Sir Fulwar Skipwith, who had married

<sup>43</sup> Ibid. 343. <sup>44</sup> *Red Bk. of Exch.* 707.

<sup>45</sup> Anct. D. (P.R.O.), D. 2240.

<sup>46</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* iii, p. 360.

<sup>47</sup> Dugd. 86: pedigree (of doubtful authenticity).

<sup>48</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc.), xv, 1760.

<sup>49</sup> Ibid. 1742. Roger Ryvel was chief tax-payer here in 1332: *Lay Subs. R.* (Dugd. Soc.), 50.

<sup>50</sup> Dugd. 86, where she is said to have married Alan de 'Kilworth'. Alan de Kelyngworth, clerk, was lord of Little Newnham in 1327: *Cal. Close*, 1323-7, p. 625.

<sup>51</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xviii), 2098.

<sup>52</sup> Cf. Dugd. 2489; where the manor is called Cold Newnham. Leventhorpe and Totty apparently held as trustees of Sir

William Bagot (*Cal. Close*, 1409-13, p. 350), but how he had an interest in the manor does not appear. <sup>53</sup> Dugd. 86.

<sup>54</sup> How fabulous was proved by J. H. Round in *Peerage and Family History*, 216-94.

<sup>55</sup> Both Sir Everard and his father William acquired land in Newnham from the Carthusians of Axholme: Anct. D. (P.R.O.), B. 11680; B. 12345.

<sup>56</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), xxx, 67.

<sup>57</sup> Ibid. cxxi, 104. <sup>58</sup> See *Peerages*.

<sup>59</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* i, 336.

<sup>60</sup> *Rot. Hundr.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 225.

<sup>61</sup> *Red Bk. of Exch.* 419.

<sup>62</sup> *Bk. of Feet*, 509.

<sup>63</sup> *V.C.H. Sussex*, vii, 229; Dugd. 82.

<sup>64</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xi), 789.

<sup>65</sup> *Cal. Chart. R.* ii, 4-8. <sup>66</sup> Ibid. iv, 35.

<sup>67</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xv), 1443.

<sup>68</sup> Dugd. 82.

<sup>69</sup> Ibid. In the tabular pedigree on the same page Dugdale makes the daughter Margaret and her husband Sir Stephen, but apparently in error.

<sup>70</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xviii), 2330.

<sup>71</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. 20 Edw. IV, no. 46.

<sup>72</sup> Ibid. (Ser. 2), xxvii, 116.

<sup>73</sup> *Feet of F. Warw. East.* 29 Hen. VIII.

<sup>74</sup> Dugd. 83.

<sup>75</sup> *Feet of F. Warw. Hil.* 30 Hen. VIII.

<sup>76</sup> Ibid. Mich. 35-36 Eliz.

<sup>77</sup> Ibid. Hil. 5 Jas. I.

<sup>78</sup> Dugd. 83. Cf. *Recov. R. Hil.* 11

Jas. I, ro, 15 Chan. Proc. (Ser. 1), H. 18,

no. 33.

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

her niece.<sup>79</sup> His grandson, Sir Fulwar, built the existing mansion, and the manor continued in the hands of the Skipwith family until 1862. The estate was then sold by Sir Thomas George Skipwith to Charles Ramsden, who resold it to Edward Wood of Inverness. The Woods made a good many alterations to the house and grounds before 1898, when Arthur Herbert Wood sold the estate to Col. Arthur Howard Heath, on whose death in 1911 his son sold to Leopold Bernhard Bonn. From his son, Major Walter Basil Bonn, it was bought in 1931 by the British Advent Missions, Ltd. of Watford, but in 1946 the property was acquired by the Sisters of Charity of St. Paul as a training college for teachers.<sup>80</sup>



SKIPWITH. Argent three bars gules and in chief a running greyhound sable.

At the beginning of the 13th century the manor of *PAILTON* was in the hands of William de Turville, who assented to his son William endowing his wife Maud (de Hastings) therein. In 1217, after the death of the younger William, Maud claimed the whole manor as dower, while her father-in-law would only grant her one-third of it.<sup>81</sup> The younger William having died without issue, his estates were divided between his sisters, Cecily wife of Roger de Craft, and Pernel wife of Simon de Crewelton (whose descendants took the name of Turville); the third sister, Isabel, who married Walhamet le Poure, seems to have left no issue.<sup>82</sup> Roger de Craft's son Roger was succeeded by his sisters Isabel wife of Hugh de Herdeburgh and Beatrice, whose first husband was William de Charneles. Accordingly in 1297 in the list of knights' fees of Edmund, Earl of Lancaster, we find a half-fee in Pailton and Harborough held by Nicholas de Turville, and a quarter-fee each held by Hugh de Herdeburgh and George de Charneles in Pailton.<sup>83</sup>

William de Charneles, son of Sir Henry, of Bedworth was dealing with lands here between 1330 and 1345,<sup>84</sup> and in 1405 the lands late of his son John, apparently the last of his line, were in the hands of trustees;<sup>85</sup> after which time this quarter-fee cannot be traced.

Isabel, one granddaughter of Hugh de Herdeburgh,<sup>86</sup> married John de Hulles and had two daughters; Denise married John de Wateville, and Alice married first John de Langley and then John Peyto. As they were under age and in ward to Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, at the time of his rebellion in 1322 their lands in Pailton, which were held of him as of the honor of Leicester, were seized with the king's hands, but were restored in 1324.<sup>87</sup> Denise left no issue, and in 1361 John de Peyto, Alice's son, held a quarter-fee in Pailton, which

was assigned to Maud, one daughter of Henry, Duke of Lancaster.<sup>88</sup>

Ella, sister of Isabel de Hulles, married Walter de Hopton and their descendant Walter<sup>89</sup> died in 1461 seised of 4 messuages and 4 carucates of land in Pailton, which passed to his sister Elizabeth wife of Roger Corbet and so descended, being sometimes styled a manor,<sup>90</sup> with Great Harborough (q.v.) to the family of Oughton.

William Revel had a grant of free warren in his demesnes at Pailton in 1304,<sup>91</sup> as did John Revel in 1327.<sup>92</sup> This manor then descended with Newbold Revel (see above) until 1537, when John Cope and Margery (Malory) his wife sold their moiety to Thomas Pope.<sup>93</sup> The other moiety, however, was retained by Dorothy (Malory) and her husband Edward Cave and was held by her two daughters in 1545<sup>94</sup> and by the younger, Margaret wife of Thomas Boughton, at her death in 1565, when the manor was said to be held of the Duchy of Lancaster.<sup>95</sup> She was succeeded by her eldest son Edward Boughton. It is probably this manor of Pailton that was held by the Skipwiths from 1728<sup>96</sup> until about 1850, at which date the Earl of Denbigh was said to be lord of the manor.<sup>97</sup>

The lands which William Revel in 1316 settled on his son John, besides Newbold and Pailton, lay in Easenhall and Stretton-under-Fosse.<sup>98</sup> The latter seems to have had no manorial existence apart from Newbold, but *EASENHALL* was partly in the hands of the Beyvilles, 100s. in rents there being held of John, son and heir of Edmund, Earl of Kent, by Lora widow of Richard de Beyville at her death in 1350.<sup>99</sup> Her son Robert being only 5 years old, custody of his estates was granted to William de Peck.<sup>1</sup> No further trace of the Beyville interest has been found, but in 1487 Nicholas Malory was said to have converted 30 acres of arable in Easenhall to pasture, causing a plough and six persons to be unemployed,<sup>2</sup> and in 1501 John Smith died holding 3 messuages and 3 virgates of land here, worth £6, from Nicholas Malory.<sup>3</sup> When his son Henry Smith died in 1513 the property is called a manor and was held of Edward Cave (husband of Nicholas's daughter Dorothy) and Margery Malory (Dorothy's sister),<sup>4</sup> Henry's son Sir Walter Smith was murdered by his second wife in 1553,<sup>5</sup> and his son Richard, who died in 1593, settled the manor on his daughter Margaret on her marriage with William Littleton,<sup>6</sup> by whose father Sir John Littleton he was tricked out of the reversion of his estates; here and at Shelford in Burton Hastings (q.v.). The Littletons sold Easenhall to Sir John Hale, but on his death in 1609, when his son Sir Warwick Hale succeeded, it is not called a manor but is described as 2 messuages and 440 acres of land.<sup>8</sup>

Robert, who in 1086 held of Geoffrey de Wirce

<sup>79</sup> Dugd. 83.

<sup>80</sup> S. M. Stanislaus, *Newbold Revel*, 16-18.

<sup>81</sup> *Bracton's Note Book*, no. 1355.

<sup>82</sup> *V.C.H. Bucks.* ii. 366-8; *V.C.H. Warwick*, iii. 93.

<sup>83</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* iii. pp. 310, 320.

<sup>84</sup> *Anct. D. (P.R.O.)*, B. 2879, 10905, 10907.

<sup>85</sup> *Ibid.* B.S. 186.

<sup>86</sup> Dugd. 73.

<sup>87</sup> *Cal. Close*, 1323-7, pp. 101, 235.

<sup>88</sup> *Ibid.* 1360-4, p. 207.

<sup>89</sup> See above, under Great Harborough.

<sup>90</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), ix, 115; cccxi, 99.

<sup>91</sup> *Cal. Chart. R.* iii, 43.

<sup>92</sup> *Ibid.* iv, 35.

<sup>93</sup> Feet of F. Div. Cos. Mich. 29 Hen. VIII.

<sup>94</sup> *Ibid.* Mich. 37 Hen. VIII.

<sup>95</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cxliii, 4.

<sup>96</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations.

<sup>97</sup> White, *Directory of Warwick*, (1850).

<sup>98</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xv), 1442. His ancestor Thomas de Wappenbury had given land in Easenhall to the nuns of Catesby Priory; which lands Richard de Easenhall had acquired from the nuns before 1380: *Cat. Anct. D.* iii, B. 4015.

<sup>99</sup> John de Easenhall and Margery de Ruten

in 1361 held jointly one-tenth of a knight's fee which had belonged to Henry, Duke of Lancaster: *Cal. Close*, 1360-4, p. 207. John de Easenhall was the largest taxpayer here in 1332: *Lay Subs. R.* (Dugd. Soc.), 51.

<sup>99</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ix, 539.

<sup>1</sup> *Cal. Fine R.* vi, 264.

<sup>2</sup> Leadam, *Domesday of Inclosures*, 433.

<sup>3</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* Hen. VII, ii, 520.

<sup>4</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), xxviii, 139.

<sup>5</sup> Dugd. 55.

<sup>6</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cccxxviii, 110.

<sup>7</sup> Dugd. 57.

<sup>8</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cccxi, 117.



5 hides in 'Wara'—the later *Waver* or *Cesters Over*<sup>9</sup>—may have been ancestor of the family of Waver. The history of the family, however, begins with Robert de Waver who held 1 knight's fee here of Niel de Mowbray c. 1225<sup>10</sup> and of Richard de Curzun, who held of Roger de Mowbray, in 1242.<sup>11</sup> He gave land in Cesters Over to the Abbey of Combe, where he desired to be buried.<sup>12</sup> His son William in 1257 had a grant of a market on Tuesdays in this manor of Waver and a yearly fair on the eve, day, and morrow of St. James.<sup>13</sup> At the beginning of the Barons' War Sir William was taken by the royal forces at Northampton;<sup>14</sup> his estates were seized and granted to Roger de Somery, with whom he compounded for their recovery in 1267.<sup>15</sup> He died in 1271, seised of the manor, which he held of Richard le Cursun of Queenborough, his son Robert being then 24.<sup>16</sup> In 1307 the manor was settled on William de Waver on his marriage with Alice daughter of Robert Lovett of Newton, subject to the life interest of (William's father) Robert de Waver.<sup>17</sup> Four members of the Waver family contributed to the subsidy in 1332 at Cesters Over, John and William each being rated at 6s.;<sup>18</sup> but later part, at least, of the estate came into the hands of the Lovetts.



WAVER. *Argent a fesse sable with three scallops or thereon.*

William Lovett of Lipscombe (Bucks.) in 1385 granted to William Purefey the reversion of 12 messuages and 13 virgates of land in Cesters Over and Cosford,<sup>19</sup> held by John Paraunt and Clemence his wife (said to have been the mother of William Lovett)<sup>20</sup> for her life. His grandson William Purefey and John Waver are alleged to have been joint lords of Cesters Over in 1432,<sup>21</sup> and in 1448 William Purefey certainly owned a manor here.<sup>22</sup> In 1460, however, William Broke,<sup>23</sup> son and heir of Ellen Broke of Astwell (Northants.) granted his rights in the manor to Henry Waver, citizen of London, for life;<sup>24</sup> and five years later he converted this into a definite release of a moiety of the manor,<sup>25</sup> William Bate of Melbourn (Derb.) at the same time making a similar release of his moiety.<sup>26</sup> In January 1467 Sir Henry Waver,<sup>27</sup> who was then sheriff of London and master of the Drapers' Company,<sup>28</sup> was granted view of frankpledge in this manor, with licence to erect and crenellate walls and towers there, and to impark 500 acres at either manor of Cesters Over or Waver Marston (in Bickenhill).<sup>29</sup> Sir Henry died in 1469,<sup>30</sup> and his son Henry died in 1478,<sup>31</sup> leaving a daughter Christine, then aged 5, seised of the manor, held of the Duchess of Norfolk as of her manor of Melton Mowbray. Christine married William Browne and subsequently Humphrey Dym-

mock, on whom she settled the manor; but at her death in 1545 it passed to her grandson Edward Browne (son of John Browne and Isabel),<sup>32</sup> who in the following year sold it to Sir Fulk Greville,<sup>33</sup> in whose family it descended until about 1800, George, Earl Brooke and Warwick, being then lord;<sup>34</sup> but Richard Arkwright is named as lord of the manor in 1803, and Robert Arkwright in 1832.<sup>35</sup>

In the charter of 1077 by which Geoffrey de Wirce endowed the Abbey of St. Nicholas of Angers 'the vill called Copston'<sup>36</sup> constitutes the main part of his gift and seems to be the equivalent of the later manor of Monks Kirby. While these estates remained in monastic hands [*GREAT*] *COPSTON* appears to have been the manorial centre of administration,<sup>37</sup> but after the Dissolution it became only a member of Monks Kirby. Similarly the manor of [*LITTLE*] *WALTON*, where Sir James de Bysegh granted his estate, which was confirmed to the monks by his descendant Sir John de Clinton in 1328,<sup>38</sup> had no separate manorial existence after the Dissolution.

The parish church of *ST. EDITH CHURCHES* stands on the summit of a small mound, on the south side of a large churchyard planted with avenues of yew trees. It consists of a chancel, nave, north and south aisles and chapels, south porch with a parvise, vestry, and a tower built into the south-west corner of the church. It was rebuilt in the latter part of the 14th century and again towards the end of the 15th century, when the present arcades were built, the upper part of the tower rebuilt, and most of the windows replaced. The priory buildings were on the north side of the chancel; part of them were embodied in the church during the 15th-century reconstruction to form the chapel. Apart from the blocked openings, a door jamb, offsets for an upper floor against the chapel, and the line of a steep roof on the north wall of the chancel, nothing remains of the priory buildings. About the end of the 16th century the church was re-roofed; it was re-leaded in 1709, according to a cast lead inscription removed from the roof in the 19th century, now fixed to the east wall of the parvise. The general arrangement of the church is somewhat unusual, the nave, until recent times, extended into the chancel without a chancel arch or other line of demarcation except, no doubt, a screen. Although the church is lofty there is no clearstory, but the windows are placed at an unusual height above the floor. The tower is tall and exceptionally large. When the upper part was rebuilt in the 15th century it included a tall octagonal spire; this was blown down on Christmas night 1722.<sup>39</sup>

Most of the east wall of the chancel has been refaced with ashlar and the gable and south buttress rebuilt. It has a modern pointed traceried window of three

<sup>9</sup> *V.C.H. Warwick*, i, 337.

<sup>10</sup> *Bk. of Fees*, 1462.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.* 952.

<sup>12</sup> Dugd. 90, citing the Register of Combe, fol. 112.

<sup>13</sup> *Cal. Chart. R.* i, 474.

<sup>14</sup> *Cal. Ing. Misc.* i, 928.

<sup>15</sup> *Cal. Close*, 1264-8, pp. 389-90.

<sup>16</sup> *Cal. Ing. p.m.* i, 793. The Curzon meise lordship, which may have come through the Camvilles (Dugd. 847), is not heard of again.

<sup>17</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xv), 1246.

<sup>18</sup> *Lay Subs. R.* (Dugd. Soc.), 50.

<sup>19</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xviii), 2326.

<sup>20</sup> Dugd. 91.

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>22</sup> *Cart. Anet. D. v.* A. 12033.

<sup>23</sup> A pedigree of Broke of Oakley made in 1564 (Metcalfe, *Visitors of Northants.* 5) deduces the family from 'Sir Nicholas Broke, lord of Chesterwaver, who died 10 Sept. 1271 and is buried at Chesterwaver'.

<sup>24</sup> *Cal. Close*, 1454-61, p. 488.

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid.* 1461-8, p. 309.

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>27</sup> He was son of a Henry Waver:

*V.C.H. Warw.* iv, 37.

<sup>28</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1461-7, pp. 525, 537.

<sup>29</sup> *Ibid.* 542.

<sup>30</sup> Dugd. 91.

<sup>31</sup> *Chan. Ing.* p.m. 19 Edw. IV, no. 64.

<sup>32</sup> *Chan. Ing.* p.m. (Ser. 2), lxxii, 111.

<sup>33</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 37 Hen.

VIII.

<sup>34</sup> *Ibid.* Mich. 41 Geo. III. Cf. Gamekeepers' Deputations.

<sup>35</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>36</sup> Nichols, *Leices.* ii, app. 125.

<sup>37</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1391-6, p. 722; *ibid.* 1401-5, p. 315; *ibid.* 1413-16, p. 355; *Early Chan. Proc.* bble. 60, no. 171.

<sup>38</sup> *Anet. D.* (P.R.O.), D. 2267; cf. D. 3211.

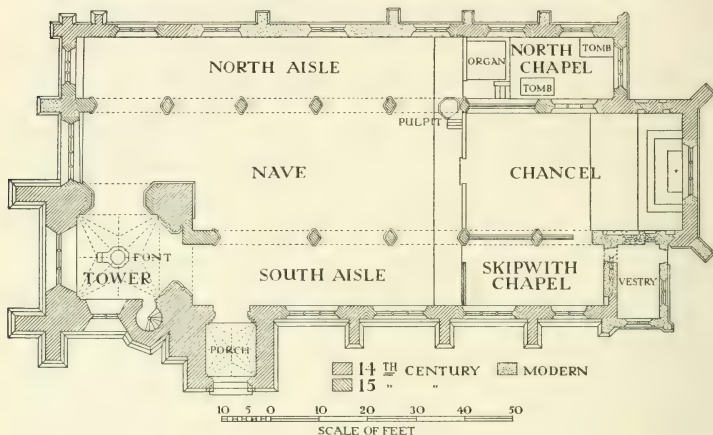
<sup>39</sup> Dugd. 77.

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

trefoiled lights. The lower part of the north wall is of ashlar, in which there is an ambury with a four-centred head, and an opening, also with a four-centred head, both blocked with masonry. The upper part, of alternate courses of ashlar and rubble, has the line of a steep-pitched roof and a blocked splayed opening with a four-centred head above the opening below. On the south a low modern vestry replaces a small earlier structure. It has a pointed doorway, a two-light square-headed window on the east and another on the south, a diagonal buttress at the angle, and a low buttress against the aisle wall, terminating in a crocketed finial. The roof is a low-pitched lean-to one with a plain parapet. Above the vestry the wall has been largely

east side by a narrow ogee-headed window. The ground floor has a stone vaulted ceiling with moulded ribs and carved central boss, supported in the angles on attached shafts with moulded bases, the rib mouldings dying out on the shafts. The doorway has an elaborately moulded pointed arch of three orders, the inner supported on a moulded capital, the two outer are without capitals, but all three have moulded bases.

The wall of the north aisle, except half the west bay, was rebuilt with light-coloured ashlar in the 19th century, including the windows, probably copies of their predecessors, and the two central buttresses, which rise in four weathered stages. It is lighted by four traceried windows of three trefoiled lights in deep



PLAN OF MONKS KIRBY CHURCH

refaced and has an early-16th-century traceried window inserted in a shallow square-headed recess; it is of three cinquefoil lights with a transom under a four-centred head. The east wall of the south aisle above the vestry is lighted by a traceried window of three cinquefoil lights under a four-centred head with a hood-mould. The south wall, which has a moulded plinth, is divided into four bays by buttresses, each in two stages terminating in pinnacles with crocketed finials above a plain parapet. At sill level there is a weathered offset, the lower weathering being carried round the buttresses and porch as a string-course. The east bay has a pointed traceried window of two cinquefoil lights, and the remaining three have wide windows of three trefoiled lights, the centre ogee and the others pointed; the tracery in all these windows is of late insertion.

The porch is two-storied, built of red sandstone ashlar. The gable, which formerly contained a sundial, was rebuilt on a classic moulding in the 19th century, omitting the sundial. The south entrance is by a richly moulded pointed archway, with the string-course carried over as a hood-mould. Above this arch the parvise is lighted by a small pointed window of two trefoiled lights, with its tracery restored, and on the

hollow splays under four-centred heads; the one at the west end and the east jamb of the eastern one are original. At the west end there is a small added buttress, close to the original one, which has a moulded string-course and gabled head. The chapel at the eastern end is divided into two bays by a rebuilt buttress. Both bays have a traceried window of three trefoiled lights under a four-centred head in deep splays, and immediately below their sills there is a splayed offset for a floor of the destroyed priory buildings. The east wall, built of a mixture of red and light-coloured sandstone ashlar, continues at the north end as a buttress and contains the south jamb of a doorway. It has a restored three-light window under a segmental pointed head. The west wall is built of squared and coursed masonry in alternate wide and narrow courses and has an angle buttress, as on the north. It has a traceried window of three cusped trefoil lights under a four-centred head. A large modern buttress divides this wall from the west end of the nave, which has a large pointed widow of four lights in a deep hollow splay, the head and tracery being modern.

The lower half of the tower, which has a moulded plinth, is built of red sandstone ashlar and the rebuilt

upper half of light-coloured ashlar. It rises in three stages, with buttresses in five weathered stages at the angles of the south and west walls, and terminates in a 19th-century parapet with open trefoil-headed panels, central pediments and crocketed pinnacles with weather vanes at each angle. On the west side the ground floor is lighted by a tall pointed three-light traceried window, of three splayed orders, in a deep splay, and on the south by a similar window, but of two trefoiled lights with restored tracery. The second stage has traceried windows of two trefoiled lights with transoms under four-centred heads and hood-moulds on the east, south, and west. The belfry windows on each face are similar, but with a string-course at sill level. On the east side above the ringing-chamber window there is a clock dial. Against the buttress at the south-east angle the wall is splayed out for the tower staircase, which is lighted by six loop-lights, three ogee-headed in the lower stage and three round-headed in the rebuilt portion.

The chancel (45 ft. by 23 ft.) has a tiled floor with three steps to the altar placed against a carved stone reredos with a central cross of alabaster. The walls of the eastern end are of roughly coursed rubble up to their junction with the nave arcades of red sandstone ashlar; two bays of the south arcade and one of the north are included in the chancel by a modern dwarf wall of light-coloured ashlar and oak screens. The dwarf wall extends right across the church to embrace both the chapels. At the eastern end in the south wall there is a trefoil-headed piscina under a pointed arch on attached shafts with moulded capitals and bases, and triple sedilia with pointed moulded arches, the inner order trefoiled, supported on circular shafts with moulded capitals and bases. Between them is a narrow blocked doorway with a four-centred arch under a square head with sunk spandrels. All this portion of the wall has been rebuilt in light-coloured sandstone ashlar and the sedilia and piscina are restorations; the doorway, however, is original. In the north wall opposite are two aumbries with four-centred heads. High up in the wall above them there is a narrow rectangular opening and on the same level a narrow trefoil-headed opening into the chapel. Below this opening there is a modern unglazed four-light window, and west of it the east bay of the arcade, closed by a dwarf wall and oak screen. Hung on the north wall there is a framed painted Royal Arms of Charles II, dated 1660. The south side takes two bays of the arcade, the east one being partly blocked by a modern wall in the form of a buttress to the respond. Both bays are closed by walls and oak screens, with an opening in the east bay to the chapel.

The south chapel (28 ft. 4 in. by 12 ft. 6 in.), known as the Skipwith chapel, has a hatchment on the south wall bearing the Skipwith coat. Part of the east wall, including the sill of the window, was rebuilt in ashlar with an ogee-headed doorway and hood-mould when adding the modern vestry. At the southern end of this wall there is a moulded ogee trefoil-headed piscina with its projecting basin cut away, and above it a moulded and carved bracket. Built into the wall on the north side of the east window there is a small square panel with a carved shield of arms. The east window has a hollow-moulded four-centred rear-arch; the south window has splayed jambs with a pointed rear-

paved for a distance of 20 feet, six steps above the level of the nave, the remainder being occupied by the organ. In the angles of the east wall there are niches with mutilated canopies of ogee trefoils, pilasters with crocketed finials, and battlemented bracket pedestals. To the west of the narrow light to the chancel there are traces of a destroyed dividing wall. There are two large alabaster table tombs of similar design, one<sup>40</sup> in the north-east corner to Sir William Feilding, died 1547, and Elizabeth his wife, died 1539, with their life-sized effigies; the man is in armour with a book clasped in his conjoined hands, clean shaven, wearing three rings on each hand and is without a ruffe. The woman is also clasping a book, wearing a ruffe, and with three rings on each of her hands. The pedestal is divided in front into five panels, three with shields, and the end into two, both with shields. The other tomb,<sup>41</sup> towards the opposite corner, is to Basil Feilding, son and heir of Sir William Feilding, date of death left blank, and Gooddeth his wife, died 1580. The two effigies are very similar to the others but the man has a beard and is wearing a ruffe, his feet rest on a lion and his gauntlets are laid beside his right leg. Each is clasping a book, each wearing two rings on both hands, and on the hem of the woman's dress there are two small sleeping dogs, one on either side. At the east end of the pedestal are two shields, at the other a shield supported by undraped figures. On the south side there are three shields, each held by a woman, and three infants in winding-sheets; and on the opposite side three shields, one supported by a man and woman and two held by men, one dressed in armour, the other a civilian, and a woman with her hands clasped in prayer with two infants in winding-sheets.

The nave (76 ft. by 23 ft. 10 in. and at the west end 76 ft. by 14 ft.) has red sandstone ashlar walls and a floor of modern tiles. The north arcade consists of six and the south of five bays of moulded pointed arches which die out on plain tall lozenge-shaped pillars with moulded bases. Two bays of the south arcade and one of the north extend into the chancel, this arrangement being accounted for by the presence of the tower within the church. At the west end the wall has been increased in thickness up to the level of the window sill with modern light-coloured ashlar; the window has a hollow-moulded pointed rear-arch. The tower arch is pointed and richly moulded, the mouldings dying out on plain half-hexagonal responds. These plain responds, similar to those of the arcade, suggest that it was inserted at the same time as the arcades were built. On the east wall of the tower, where it projects into the nave, the roof line of the earlier aisle is visible. Hung on the west wall there is a coloured plan of the seating, with the names of the occupiers, dated 1752. The pulpit, a modern octagonal one of stone, is placed on the north side of the chancel. Hung on the tower wall there are a helmet, a pair of gauntlets, a sword, and a pair of spurs, all of small size.

The north aisle (76 ft. by 12 ft. 6 in.) has three blocked doorways with four-centred heads at the east end, two close together on the ground floor and above them, one to a first floor. Built into the north wall at the west end there is a badly mutilated head and shoulders of a large stone effigy. Against the north wall there are two white marble monuments of very similar design, one to the 7th Earl of Denbigh, died 1865, and his wife, died 1847; the other is to Lady

<sup>40</sup> Described and figured in *Birm. Arch. Soc. Trans.* xlviii, 149-51 and pl. xx (2).

<sup>41</sup> *Ibid.* 161-2, pl. xxvii.

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

Augusta Feilding, died 1848; and between them three small tablets to other members of the family. The west wall is thickened in the same manner as the nave.

The south aisle (55 ft. by 12 ft. 6 in.) has a modern tiled and partly boarded floor. The tower arch is pointed and richly moulded, the mouldings continuing down to a moulded base. It has been partly blocked on the north side to take the respond of the later arcade. The windows have pointed rear-arches of two splayed orders continuing down to the sills, and the door a pointed rear-arch of two plain orders. Above the door there is a small ogee-headed light to the parvise.

The tower (17 ft. 6 in. by 17 ft. 6 in.) has a modern tiled floor with a modern octagonal stone font in the centre. It has a stone vaulted ceiling with moulded ribs and a central octagonal boss. The moulded ribs die out on plain chamfered responds in the angles, without capitals but with moulded bases. In the south-east angle there is an ogée-headed doorway to a circular staircase leading to the tower and parvise; above the door there is a painted list of charities, dated 1714. Both windows have pointed rear-arches to deeply splayed reveals. Round the walls there is a dado of oak panelling cut from the old bell-frame in 1921 when it was replaced by a steel one. The traceried screens enclosing the chancel and chapels were also made from these timbers.

The roofs of the nave and aisles, which extend the whole length of the church, all date from the end of the 16th century and were probably carried out by the Duke of Suffolk. The nave roof has a low pitch and is divided into twelve bays by trusses supported on curved brackets with traceried spandrels and moulded wall-posts. The tie-beams, ridges, purlins, and wall-plates are moulded and in some cases the tie-beams are battlemented. At the west end the truss, which is shortened by the tower, has a solid instead of a traceried bracket. Both aisle roofs are of the lean-to type and of similar design. That over the south aisle is divided into six bays by moulded beams resting on a moulded wall-plate supported on stone corbels on the arcade wall. Each bay is divided by an intermediate beam and by two purlins, both moulded. Three bays at the east end have carved bosses at the junction of the purlins with the intermediate beams. The north aisle has a roof of nine similar bays but without the carved bosses. Some of the timbers of the western bays have been renewed, probably in the 18th century, and much of the roof has been re-boarded.

Of the six bells<sup>42</sup> the earliest probably dates from the late 14th century; three are by Henry Bagley, 1618, 1623, 1640; one by Joseph Smith, 1711; and one by Thomas Eayre of Kettering, 1741.

The plate consists of a silver gilt flagon, chalice, ciborium, and paten, all the gift of the Duchess of Dudley, 1638. Also a silver chalice and cover of 1585; a silver paten inscribed I.H.S. and bearing a crucifix which has been defaced.

The registers commence in 1653.

The church of *ST. JOHN* in Copston Magna, a chapel of ease to Monks Kirby, stands on a mound to

the west of the village in a large churchyard. It consists of a chancel, nave, south porch, and a vestry on the south side of the chancel. It was built in the Gothic style of the 14th century in 1849, probably on the site of the old church; no parts of the old church have been incorporated in the new.<sup>43</sup> It is of red sandstone rubble with dressings of a lighter colour, the roofs are tiled and on the west gable there is a bell-cote for a single bell. The chancel has an east window of three trefoiled lights, two single trefoiled lights on the north, and one on the south. The porch entrance is pointed, the mouldings resting on attached shafts, the doorway has its mouldings carried down to carved steps at the base. The nave is lighted on the north by three windows of two trefoiled lights and a single light, on the south by two similar windows and one single light, and on the west by two two-lights with a six-foiled light in the gable. The chancel measures 16 ft. 3 in. by 15 ft. 2 in. and the nave 43 ft. by 20 ft. 10 in. The chancel arch is pointed and supported on half-octagonal responds with moulded capital and square bases.

The church of *ST. DENIS* in Pailton, also a chapel of ease, in the middle of the village, stands in a small plot of ground in which there are no burials. It was built in 1884, and consists of an apsidal chancel measuring 25 ft. 6 in. by 16 ft. 6 in., a nave 40 ft. 9 in. by 18 ft. 8 in., and a small apsidal vestry on the north side. It is built of red brick with stone dressings in the style of the 12th century. The roofs are tiled and there is a bell-cote for a single bell. The interior is also of red brick and stone dressings in alternate light and dark courses.

Kirkby, the original form of the *ADPOWSON* name of the parish, implies the early existence of a church here. At the Norman Conquest Geoffrey de Wirce found the church in ruin and, as already mentioned, rebuilt it and gave it to the Abbey of St. Nicholas, Angers. It was appropriated to the Priory of Monks Kirby and in 1291 was valued at £21 6s. 8d.<sup>44</sup> With the priory it passed to the Carthusians of Axholme, who in 1535 were paying a yearly stipend of £20 to the vicar, and £5 6s. 8d. to the priest of a chantry,<sup>45</sup> of which the foundation and history are unknown. At the Dissolution it came into the king's hands and in December 1546 the rectory and the advowson of the vicarage were granted by Henry VIII to his foundation of Trinity College, Cambridge,<sup>46</sup> in whose possession they have continued.

One of the members of this large parish provided with a chapel was Cesters Over.<sup>47</sup> Here a chapel had been established by the ancestors of Sir William de Waver, who in 1220 complained to Pope Honorius III that the Priory of Monks Kirby were taking the rents of the endowment and not providing a priest. Next year the prior and convent undertook to institute a chaplain to celebrate in the chapel of 'Wavere' for the household of Sir William and his heirs and the men of the vill, subject to the rights of the mother church of Kirby. In return Sir William gave them 2 virgates in 'Wavere', and a manse next to the chapel for the

<sup>42</sup> Tilley and Walters, *Church Bells of Warwick*, 191-2.

<sup>43</sup> A view of the old chapel in the Aylesford Collection (c. 1820) shows a building with structurally separate chancel and nave and a south porch. The east window of the chancel, below a timber-framed gable-end, was rectangular with four tre-

foil lights and above them two square panels, each with a multifoil piercing; the south window similar but of three lights and the upper part occupied by six narrow trefoil lights. The nave had on the south a rectangular window of two round-headed lights (? 17th century).

<sup>44</sup> *Tax. Eccl. (Rec. Com.)*, 241.

<sup>45</sup> *Valor Eccl. (Rec. Com.)*, iv, 135.

<sup>46</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xxi (2), 648 (51).

<sup>47</sup> Mr. M. W. Beresford has called our attention to Stukeley's statement (*Ann. Cur.*, i, 111) in 1776 that he saw at Cesters Over a chapel which had been converted into a barn.



chaplain to dwell in.<sup>48</sup> The arrangement was confirmed in 1251.<sup>49</sup> No later reference to the chapel is known. There was also a chapel at Great Copston (see above) which was probably the oratory of the Prior of Monks Kirby referred to in 1373.<sup>50</sup> It was apparently functioning, as a donative in the gift of the Earl of Denbigh, in 1730<sup>51</sup> and, although described in 1769 as a 'destroyed church'<sup>52</sup> its fabric seems to have stood until the new church was built in 1849.

It was probably for the provision of assistance for the incumbent that the augmentation of the living by £20 was approved in 1658.<sup>53</sup> It is not clear whether this took effect at that time, but Alice, Duchess Dudley, who died in 1669, gave sufficient endowment to augment the living by the same sum of £20.<sup>54</sup>

Joseph Bosworth, by will dated 20 December 1805 gave £63, to pay the interest on £42 to the officiating minister of Monks Kirby for preaching a sermon in the parish church in the afternoon of Mid-Lent Sunday and another in the afternoon of the Sunday next after old St. Swithin, and the interest on £21 towards the support of the Sunday Schools for poor children of the township of Monks Kirby and hamlet of Pailton equally; but if the Sunday School should be discontinued in either place, then to pay one-half of the interest on the £21 to the said minister for preaching a sermon in the afternoon of the first Sunday after 29 September; if discontinued in both places, then to pay the other half to the minister for preaching a sermon in the afternoon of the second Sunday after 29 September. The testator by a codicil dated 7 March 1806 devised a close of land in Pailton called Shuckborough Close to the vicar of Monks Kirby upon the trusts contained in his will.

The annual income of the charity amounts to £10 (approximately).

Thomas Cook. A tablet placed in the church in 1714 states that he gave by his will arable land for the maintenance of the church, £1 5s. 4d.: the rent received in respect of the land is applied by the churchwardens for church purposes.

John King, who died in 1642, by his will charged certain land in Street Aston lordship called Fat Furlong with the annual payment of the sum of 10s., viz. 3s. 4d. at Christmas, the same at Easter, and the same at Whitsuntide, to the poor of Monks Kirby town.

William Miller by his will gave Gill's Close near Pailton, ordering the rent to be distributed yearly among the poor of the Constable Ward of Monks Kirby. The rent, amounting to £8, together with the 10s. comprising John King's charity is distributed among widows and old people residing in the parish.

Lady Mary Frances Catherine Feilding by her will

dated August 1895 bequeathed £3,000, the interest to be applied for all or any of the following purposes, (a) towards providing the salary of the minister of the Church of England who shall conduct divine service in the chapel of ease known as St. Denis at Pailton; (b) towards the maintenance of any branch of the work of the Church of England in the said parish; (c) towards the maintenance of the Lady Mary's Home in the parish so long as the purposes and uses of the home are continued in accordance with the principles of the Church of England.

By a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated December 1918 a body of trustees was appointed to administer the charity, the annual income of which amounts to £60 (approximately).

Lady Mary's Home. By an Indenture dated 18 March 1880 Lady Mary Frances Catherine Feilding granted to trustees the property then known as Pailton Hall, upon trust for the benefit solely of the respectable inhabitants of the parish of Monks Kirby, the instruction of the young and the care of the sick and aged being always among the principal objects to be kept in view, subject to such regulations as the Archdeacon of Coventry, the vicar of Monks Kirby, and any trustee or trustees or the major part of them should with the approval of the Bishop of the Diocese appoint.

The following scheme for the management of the Home was approved by the Bishop of Worcester in or about the commencement of the year 1913:

'The net proceeds, after paying all legal charges and providing for the maintenance of the property, may be applied by the Trustees at their discretion to any of the following objects:—

*A.—The Poor*

- (1) Gifts in time of sickness or any special necessity.
- (2) Obtaining admission to Hospitals, Convalescent Homes or suchlike institutions, or providing special medical or surgical appliances.

*B.—Church Schools*

Contribution to the expenses which fall upon Managers of Elementary Schools.

*C.* Contribution for providing an additional Clergyman in the Parish, in consideration of his efficient care of the poor, the sick, and the aged, the amount not to exceed one quarter of the net revenue in any year.'

The charity is regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 20 December 1918, which appoints trustees to administer the charity and directs that the yearly income shall be applied for the purposes approved by the Bishop in 1913, or for such other charitable purposes for the benefit of the inhabitants as may be selected by the trustees and approved by the Bishop. The yearly income of the charity amounts to £50 (approximately).

## NAPTON-ON-THE-HILL

Acreage: 4,027.

Population: 1911, 847; 1921, 805; 1931, 816.

Napton-on-the-Hill is an extensive parish and village 3 miles east of Southam. It derives its name<sup>1</sup> from a prominent hill jutting out from the upland country of western Northamptonshire which, though not much

more than 500 ft. high, commands wide views, there being no such high ground for a long way west and north. The remainder of the parish is comparatively flat, lying round about 300 ft. There are no large woods or water-courses. The parish is crossed by the main road from Southam to Daventry, which is here

<sup>48</sup> *Magnum Reg. Albion* (Wm. Salt Soc.),

nos. 299, 300.

<sup>49</sup> *Ibid.* no. 97.

<sup>50</sup> *Wm. Salt Soc. N.S.* viii, 63.

<sup>51</sup> Dugd. 85.

<sup>52</sup> Ecton, *Thesaurus*, 92.

<sup>53</sup> *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1657-8, p. 270.

<sup>54</sup> Dugd. 261.

<sup>1</sup> Napton 'on the Hill' is tautological, Napton itself meaning 'the settlement on the hill': *Place-Names of Warwick*. (Engl. P.-N. Soc.), 140.

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

joined by roads from Stockton and from Napton Station (2 miles away and outside the parish) on the north, and from Prior's Marston and the Welsh Road on the south. The village is a considerable one built on the south and east slopes of Napton Hill below the church. Quite a number of houses are of 17th-century date and a few are of 16th-century origin. They are built of stone, mostly sandstone ashlar, a few of rubble, and were originally thatched, but in many cases the thatch has either been covered by or replaced with corrugated iron sheeting. Generally, the village buildings were stone, since altered, repaired, or re-fronted with red brick. A quarter of a mile north of the village there is a small group of similar houses astride the main road, known as Butt Hill. The hill is crowned by the church, and by a windmill whose predecessors can be traced as far back as 1543.<sup>2</sup> Chapel Green, the southern end of the village, perhaps preserves the memory of a chapel of St. Laurence in which John Odams was licenced to hear divine service in 1392-3.<sup>3</sup> The parish is traversed by the Oxford Canal, which ascends from the low ground by Hodnell and Radbourn by a series of 7 locks, and winds round the foot of the hill (on the west side of which, near the canal, there are brick-works) to Napton Junction, where the branch canal to Warwick diverges. Near this junction there are large reservoirs to replenish the canal.

Though situated in the middle of one of the most sparsely populated districts of Warwickshire, the village has always been a large one, containing 'above one hundred houses', of which thirty-five kept teams, in 1730. It was then divided into Button's End and Brooks End.<sup>4</sup> In the 16th century there were at least four distinct manors, and a very large number of documents relating to transfers of small properties exist in the Public Record Office and elsewhere. Napton, in fact, is a typical 'open' village, standing in relation to its neighbours much as Harbury to Chesterton, and Brinklow to Combe Fields. Encroachments and cottages on the common fields were reported in 1656,<sup>5</sup> and about the same time the village was declared to be 'so burdened and overcharged with poor' that the 'better sort of inhabitants (are) in no way able to relieve them'. The depopulated parishes to the south-west (Ascote, the Radbourns, &c.) were ordered to pay towards the support of the poor of Napton and Southam.<sup>6</sup>

Napton figures in the 1517 inquiry into inclosures, Thomas Shukborough being cited as having allowed a capital message to fall into ruin and inclosed 70 acres of arable, thereby displacing twelve persons; 96 yardlands, or 3,000 acres, were inclosed by Act of Parliament in 1778.<sup>8</sup>

In 1086 an estate of 3 hides and 3 virgates in *NAPTON* was held by the Count of Meulan, with Robert as his tenant, which before 1066 had been in the free tenure of Leuenot and Bundi.<sup>9</sup> Robert also held 3 virgates of Turchil of Warwick, whose pre-Conquest tenant had been Eduin;<sup>10</sup> and another estate of Turchil, the  $\frac{1}{2}$  hide of which makes a total assessment on Napton of 5 hides, was held both before and after the Conquest by Ulchetel.<sup>11</sup>

The Count of Meulan's  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hides became part of the Honor of Leicester, and, after the partition of the estates of the last Beaumont Earl of Leicester (1204), of the Honor of Winchester.<sup>12</sup> Napton and Weston-under-Wetherley were associated as two fees in this Honor in 1235-61<sup>3</sup> and 1271.<sup>14</sup> In 1285 view of frankpledge was claimed at Napton by John Comyn, Earl of Buchan, and William Ferrers, Earl of Derby, husbands of two of the Winchester coheirresses.<sup>15</sup> The former was overlord of 1 knight's fee in Napton in 1292,<sup>16</sup> and his grandson Henry, Lord Beaumont, of 1 fee at his death in 1369.<sup>17</sup> Further references to this overlordship are found in 1396<sup>18</sup> and 1413.<sup>19</sup>

The tenants of the Napton fee were a family taking their name from the village and considered by Dugdale to be descended from Robert, the Domesday tenant.<sup>20</sup> In 1202 Adam de Napton quitclaimed 30 acres of land in Napton to Osbert;<sup>21</sup> and his grandson, another Adam, held 2 carucates at his death in 1292.<sup>22</sup> His son Robert, then aged 22, received in 1321 a grant of free warren, a Thursday market, and an annual fair on the vigil, feast, and morrow of the Assumption, at Napton.<sup>23</sup> The family had been employed in local government for at least two generations<sup>24</sup> and had risen to some eminence, Robert marrying Lucy, daughter of Guy, Earl of Warwick.<sup>25</sup> Their son Adam and his wife Ellen in 1348 settled their possessions in Napton, consisting of 7 tenements, 2 tofts, 2 mills, 3 carucates, and 1 bovat of land, 34 acres of meadow, and 12 of pasture, with various rents, on themselves with remainder to their son Adam and his wife Joan and their heirs.<sup>26</sup> In 1382 John Napton remitted all claim in certain lands which Thomas Evesham had at that date and which had been acquired by John Evesham of Robert Napton;<sup>27</sup> and in 1400 he and his wife Alice were dealing with the manor<sup>28</sup> in which he then or later enfeoffed William de Napton.<sup>29</sup> The latter may be the 'William son of Alice Betons' of Napton, who with his wife Agnes in 1411 passed the manor to



NAPTON. Argent a fesse azure with three scallops argent thereon.

<sup>2</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 35 Hen. VIII; Mich. 44-45 Eliz. and frequent later references.

<sup>3</sup> Dugd. 337. John Odams was tenant of the Prior of Coventry, who was 'rector' (i.e. owner of the tithes) of an estate in Napton: Exch. K.R. Misc. Bks. 21, fol. 230-1.

<sup>4</sup> Dugd. 338. This information was given to William Thomas by Thomas Hall, a free tenant in Button's End.

<sup>5</sup> Warw. Co. Records, iii, 304.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid. ii, 17, 38; iii, 50, 71, 194; iv, 138-9. Two hundred years later the supply of labour was again 'more than sufficient', the parish being chiefly under

grass: Reports from Commissioners 1868-9, XXII, Appx. pt. ii, p. 231.

<sup>7</sup> Leadam, Domesday of Incl. 436, 650, 653.

<sup>8</sup> Slater, Engl. Peasantry and Encl. 303.

<sup>9</sup> V.C.H. Warw. i, 314.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid. 321.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid. 322. He had held it freely before 1066.

<sup>12</sup> See Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xviii), p. 227.

<sup>13</sup> Book of Fees, 509, 514.

<sup>14</sup> Cal. Ing. p.m. i, 776 (p. 256).

<sup>15</sup> Plac. de Quo Warr. (Rec. Com.), 784;

G. E. C. Compl. Peerage, 1st ed. viii, 170.

<sup>16</sup> Cal. Ing. p.m. iii, 45 (p. 36).

<sup>17</sup> Ibid. xii, 321 (p. 295).

<sup>18</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. 20 Ric. II, 14.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid. 1 Hen. V, 45.

<sup>20</sup> Dugd. 335.

<sup>21</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xi), 137.

<sup>22</sup> Cal. Ing. p.m. iii, 45 (p. 36).

<sup>23</sup> Cal. Chari. R. iii, 437. The fair was held as late as 1830; West, Directory Warw. 750.

<sup>24</sup> e.g. Cal. Close, 1231-4, p. 158; ibid. 1251-3, p. 150; Cal. Pat. 1247-58, p. 648.

<sup>25</sup> Dugd. 335, quoting J. Rous.

<sup>26</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xviii), 2003.

<sup>27</sup> Cal. Close, 1381-5, p. 111.

<sup>28</sup> Coram Rege R. East. 2 Hen. V, m. 27.

<sup>29</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xviii), 2385.

William Shuckburgh<sup>30</sup> who was in possession of a half and a sixth of a knight's fee in Napton in 1428.<sup>31</sup> Since this date the manor has descended with that of Upper Shuckburgh (q.v.). In 1560 it was stated to be held of the queen as of the honor of Winchester.<sup>32</sup>

The overlordship of the earls of Warwick as regards Turchil's 3 virgates can be traced in 1235 and 1242<sup>33</sup> as to a half and a tenth of a fee, the tenth-fee being again returned in 1268<sup>34</sup> and a fifth of a fee in 1315<sup>35</sup> and 1401, the last instance being described as in *NAPTON BOSCHER*,<sup>36</sup> a form found in a list of fees of the early 14th century.<sup>37</sup> The sub-tenant in 1235, 1242, and 1268 was Thomas de Arderne, a descendant of Turchil; in the first case Ralph de Normanvill was associated with him. The service demanded of Thomas, as regards two virgates, was that of keeping one of the king's brachet dogs.<sup>38</sup> In 1315 Ralph Basset of Sapote (Leics.) appears as the sub-tenant. A half-fee formerly held by Thomas 'Dardene' occurs in 1428.<sup>39</sup>

Another 'manor' in Napton occurs in 1315 when John de Wileby settled it on Robert de Harewedon for life, with remainder to John's son Robert and his wife Emma, and their heirs.<sup>40</sup> In 1334 Robert and Emma settled 6 virgates of land in Napton on their son John and his wife Katherine.<sup>41</sup> This manor was referred to in 1428 as a quarter of a fee formerly held by Robert Willoughby. At the same time there was also a third of a fee which had been held by Thomas Chaumbre;<sup>42</sup> he, who held it in right of his wife Eleanor, said to have been the 'heir general of Willoughby',<sup>43</sup> conveyed the 'manor' in the same year to Richard Buklond,<sup>44</sup> probably in trust. How the manor came to Sir William Vaux is not certainly known, but William his grandfather is said to have married either a Chambers heiress or else Helen daughter of Thomas (son of Thomas) Drakelow<sup>45</sup> who in 1369 was dealing with a manor of Napton<sup>46</sup> and who was apparently either husband or son of Alice Wileby.<sup>47</sup> Sir William Vaux was a keen Lancastrian and forfeited his manors by attainder in 1461,<sup>48</sup> after which the fee simple of this manor, known as *VAUX'S MANOR*, was granted to Ralph Hastings;<sup>49</sup> it then contained a messuage, 30 acres of land, and 5 of pasture. The grant was renewed by Richard III on his accession,<sup>50</sup> but with the reversal of fortunes after the battle



VAUX. Chequy or and gules a chevron azure with three roses or thereon.

of Bosworth the manor reverted to the Vaux family, Sir Nicholas, Sir William's son, settling it on his wife Anne (Greene) and dying in possession in 1523.<sup>51</sup> The subsequent descent is obscure. In the mid-16th century it appears to have been in the hands of the Cheney family and to have become divided amongst coheirresses, as in the next documentary reference (1595) it is called *CHENEY'S* alias *VAUX'S MANOR*; three parts were passed at this time by Lawrence and Edward Eyton to Thomas Decons,<sup>52</sup> who received the remaining part from Simon and Thomas Porter in 1606.<sup>53</sup> Decons entailed it on his son William at his marriage to Grace, daughter of Hugh Beresford of Slatelay, in 1614.<sup>54</sup> It later came to the Loe or Low family, John Loe and Mary his wife dealing with it in 1664 and 1666,<sup>55</sup> and 'one John Low, a Soldier', claiming the royalty in 1730.<sup>56</sup> Another John Loe was lord in 1747, and Matthew Loe in 1753.<sup>57</sup> The latter sold it to Sir Theophilus Biddulph, bart., of Birdingbury in 1767, when it was alleged to include view of frankpledge.<sup>58</sup> Sir Theophilus was vouchee in recoveries of 1782 and 1790,<sup>59</sup> when the manor was known as *NAPTON NORTH*. Between 1804 and 1827 Joseph Walker was lord,<sup>60</sup> but manorial rights had lapsed by 1850, when the Shuckburgh lordship alone survived.<sup>61</sup>

Napton does not figure in the foundation charter of Coventry priory, but in 1236 Simon de Cubinton and in 1242 Hugh son of Laurence held land assessed at half a knight's fee of this monastery,<sup>62</sup> and in 1316 this estate was reckoned important enough for the prior to share the lordship of Napton *cum membris* with Robert de Napton, and to be sole lord of the part of Napton which was a hamlet of Weston by Cubington.<sup>63</sup> In about 1412 Thomas Hayton, in right of his wife who was daughter of John Odams, 'with his partners' held of the Prior of Coventry, as half a fee, by payment of 3s. yearly to the infirmaries of the priory 12 virgates of arable in Napton called 'Lanney fee', or 'Lannesfee'.<sup>64</sup> The priory estate was producing 26s. 8d. in rents in 1535.<sup>65</sup> After the Dissolution this presumably constituted the manor of *HAITONS* or *HEYDONS* conveyed along with the Vaux manor to Thomas Decons in the 1595 fine. Thomas Andrews (died 1496) held a messuage and 6 acres of land, worth 6s. 8d., of this manor.<sup>66</sup> It was included with the Vaux manor in the fine of 1664 and 1666,<sup>67</sup> but later passed to the Shuckburgh family, members of which were vouchees in recoveries of 1707, 1785, and 1810.<sup>68</sup>

Another estate in Napton, comprising in 1509 4 messuages, 3 gardens, 4 tofts, 200 acres of land, 30 of

<sup>30</sup> Ibid. 2457. In a suit of 1447 (De Banco R. Mich. 25 Hen. VI, m. 626 (*Wm. Salf. Soc.*, n.s. iii, 176-7)) Thomas Shuckburgh, son of William, claimed to be lord and patron of the church by direct descent through John de Napton, William's mother, who married John de Shuckburgh and was a great-granddaughter of Adam de Napton (*temp.* Edw. III), presumably the son of Robert, who made the settlement of the manor in 1348 (see note 26).

<sup>31</sup> *Feudal Aids*, v, 193.

<sup>32</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cxxxi, 197.

<sup>33</sup> *Book of Fees*, 507, 957.

<sup>34</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* i, 679 (p. 213).

<sup>35</sup> Ibid. vi, p. 404.

<sup>36</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. 2 Hen. iv, 58.

<sup>37</sup> Add. MS. 28024, fol. 192 v. Presumably it had been part of the Boscher fee in Ladbroke (q.v.).

<sup>38</sup> *Book of Fees*, 1356. Boscher's seigniority in the 12th century was the keeping of a brachet: *ibid.* 1278.

<sup>39</sup> *Feudal Aids*, v, 104.

<sup>40</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xv), 1431.

<sup>41</sup> Ibid. 1771.

<sup>42</sup> *Feudal Aids*, v, 103.

<sup>43</sup> Nichols, *Leics.* ii, 790.

<sup>44</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xviii), 2546.

<sup>45</sup> Nichols, *Leics.* iii, 1129.

<sup>46</sup> *Cal. Close*, 1369-74, p. 79.

<sup>47</sup> Nichols, *Leics.* ii, 790.

<sup>48</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. 4 Edw. IV, 45.

<sup>49</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1461-7, pp. 195, 369.

<sup>50</sup> Ibid. 1476-85, p. 460.

<sup>51</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), xl, 100.

<sup>52</sup> *Feet of F.* Warw. Mich. 37-8 Eliz.

<sup>53</sup> Ibid. Mich. 4 Jas. I.

<sup>54</sup> Dugd. 337, quoting MSS. *penes* Sir Simon Archer.

<sup>55</sup> *Feet of F.* Warw. Trin. 16 Chas. II; Mich. 18 Chas. II.

<sup>56</sup> Dugd. 337. No reference given.

<sup>57</sup> *Gamekeepers' Deputations*, Shire Hall, Warwick.

<sup>58</sup> *Feet of F.* Warw. Trin. 7 Geo. III, ro. 359; Hil. 30 Geo. III, ro. 307.

<sup>59</sup> *Gamekeepers' Deputations*.

<sup>60</sup> White, *Directory Warw.* 694.

<sup>61</sup> *Book of Fees*, 583, 955.

<sup>62</sup> *Feudal Aids*, v, 174, 177; *Dep. Keeper's Rept.* xiv, Appx. 2, p. 255.

<sup>63</sup> Ech. K.R. Misc. Bks. 21, fol. 230-1.

<sup>64</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 49.

<sup>65</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* Hen. VII, ii, 293.

<sup>66</sup> See note 55 above.

<sup>67</sup> *Recov. R.* Mich. 6 Anne, ro. 145;

<sup>68</sup> East. 25 Geo. III, ro. 225; East. 50 Geo. III, ro. 8.

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

meadow, 20 of pasture, and 6 of wood, with 4s. rents, was at that time known as *BROWN'S MANOR*.<sup>69</sup> It had been in possession of Henry Broun, who at his death in 1501 held considerable parcels in the Shuckburgh, Vaux, and Haiton manors as well as this estate, which was held of the king as of his lordship of Warwick by fealty only.<sup>70</sup> He left two daughters Joan and Margaret as co-heirs; Joan was wife of John Cranowe and mother of Christopher, who in 1509 passed his interest to Richard and Thomas Wyllys and others, subject to a life tenancy of John Cranowe his father.<sup>71</sup> This manor remained with the Willis family, being usually stated as held of the lordship of Southam,<sup>72</sup> till 1638, when George Willis sold it to Richard Schuckburgh.<sup>73</sup>

A branch of the Spencer family in the late 16th century held land in Napton that was described as a manor.<sup>74</sup>

In 1473 John Hugford and Thomas Waldyeve were licensed to alienate to Stoneleigh Abbey 3 acres of land and 2 of meadow in Napton.<sup>75</sup> One meadow, valued at 18d., was in possession of the abbey in 1535.<sup>76</sup> The life grant to Mary, Duchess of Richmond and Somerset, in 1539 of various possessions of Combe Abbey mentions Napton,<sup>77</sup> but there is no Napton property entered against Combe Abbey in the *Valor*.

The church of *ST. LAWRENCE CHURCH* stands on the summit of Napton Hill in the middle of a small churchyard to the north of the village. The church was built in the 12th century and probably consisted of chancel, north and south transepts, nave, and west tower. It was rebuilt in the 13th century, when the aisles were added, and at a later date, probably in the 17th century, a vestry and porch were built. The tower has been completely rebuilt within recent times, re-using some of the 12th-century materials, and a clearstory has been inserted. All the roofs are modern.

The east wall of the chancel is built of sandstone ashlar with gabled buttresses in two stages, the upper gablets having cinquefoil panels, a plinth of two plays, and a moulded coping to the gable. The window, of four modern cinquefoil pointed lights, has a four-centred head and a modern hood-mould. The south side, also ashlar, has a plinth of one play. There is a modern doorway in the centre with a segmental chamfered head and square label, flanked by modern two-light pointed windows with hood-moulds. Above the door there is a square, brass sundial. The north side is of random sandstone rubble with a chamfered string-course immediately below the window sills, which stops short of the east end at the point where the chancel has been extended. It has a plinth of one play and is lighted by three narrow lancet windows. The east side of the south transept is built of sandstone ashlar and has a plinth of two plays. It is lighted by a plain tracery window of two trefoil lights, pointed arch of two plays, and a hood-mould with its stops missing; it is all modern except part of the arch. The south side has diagonal buttresses in two weathered stages, and a plinth of two plays. There are three tall narrow trefoiled windows with hood-moulds, the centre one taken up above the others; above the windows there is a semicircular

relieving arch, part of a modern rebuilding of the gable. There are no windows on the west side, which has been patched all over with cement. The east side of the north transept is built of squared and coursed sandstone, with a plinth of one play. It is lighted by a triple lancet, with a taller centre light and hood-moulds carried over each arch, and by a single lancet to the south. On the north side are three tall narrow trefoil lights under a moulded semicircular arch; the two roll-moulded members form shafts with moulded capitals and bases, and the outer member forms a hood-mould. On the west side is a tall lancet window, modern, but probably a replacement.

The north aisle has a low-pitched lead roof with a plain parapet on a played string-course and a projection for a recess at the east end with a plain parapet, lighted by a square-headed three-light window of two chamfered orders with a hood-mould and by a canted rectangular window in the angle where it joins the nave wall. A vestry has been built in front of the north door with a pitched tiled roof and a two-light ogee trefoiled window with a square head. On the west side it butts against a later buttress, in three stages, with a moulded plinth, built against the nave wall. The clearstory, which was formed by lowering the pitch of the aisle roof, has three circular lights, one quatrefoil, one trefoil, and the other with eight cusps. The west wall is built of random rubble and has a single lancet window without a hood-mould. The south aisle has two windows of two ogee trefoil lights with square heads and hood-moulds, one on either side of the porch; except for a few stones they are modern restorations. The porch appears to have been rebuilt about the end of the 16th century, when openings were made on either side, filled in with odd pieces of tracery supported on short circular shafts with moulded bases, probably 12th-century, and later blocked up. The pointed entrance arch is moulded on both faces with a panelled soffit, moulded capitals, and external hood-mould with diamond-shaped stops. It has an open pitched roof with moulded timbers dating from the end of the 16th century. The south door dates from the late 12th century and was probably moved from the nave when the aisles were built. It has a semicircular head of two orders of roll-mouldings, and a hood-mould with head-stops; the outer order is supported on carved capitals; the detached shafts are missing but their moulded bases remain. The clearstory has three circular lights, one cinquefoil, one with six cusps, and the other with seven.

The tower has been completely rebuilt in brown sandstone ashlar with white sandstone dressings. It rises in two stages, marked by a band of white stone, with pilasters at the western angles having classic moulded capitals and bases. It has a plain parapet of red sandstone ashlar, pinnacles at each angle with ball finials and a roll-moulded string-course at its base. On the west face there is a round-headed light with white sandstone dressings; on the north two loop-lights to the staircase; and on the south a door with a round-headed window above. The belfry windows on all four faces are of two pointed lights with transoms and a plain semicircular head flush with the wall face; on

<sup>69</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xviii), 2818.

John Brown of Napton, 'draper', was concerned in a discovery of treasure trove in 1416 (*Cal. Pat.* 1410-22, p. 59). He, or a namesake, sold some land in Napton in 1392: *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xviii), 2336.

<sup>70</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII.* ii, 625.

<sup>71</sup> See note 59 above.

<sup>72</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), clxxxiii, 98.

<sup>73</sup> *Cal.* 10; cclix, 26.

<sup>74</sup> Feet of F. Warw. East. 14 Chas. I.

<sup>75</sup> Feet of F. Div. Cos. Trin. 16 Eliz.;

Hil. 19 Eliz.; *Recov. R. Mich.* 21-22 Eliz. 10, 337.

<sup>76</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1467-77, pp. 64, 411.

<sup>77</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.) iii, 68.

<sup>78</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII.* xiv (1), p. 595.



the east face the lights below the transom are blocked with brickwork.

The chancel (39 ft. 2 in. by 18 ft. 4 in.) is stone-paved, with a tiled altar space, one step to the rail, and one to the altar. It has a modern king-post roof, and the walls are plastered. On the north the lancet windows have widely splayed recesses with semi-circular heads. The east window has a four-centred rear-arch with a chamfer dying out on splayed jambs. On the south the two modern window recesses have been carried down to form seats, and the door has a modern segmental-pointed rear-arch. At the south-west corner there is a rectangular squint, now fitted with a pointed trefoil head and jambs which formed part of a window. On the north wall there is an incised brass to John Shuckburgh, died 1625, inclosed in a marble frame. It has the figure of a man kneeling at a desk on which is an open book, and below are the inscription and a shield of arms.

The north transept (18 ft. 6 in. by 16 ft. 3 in.) has a modern trussed rafter roof, plastered walls, and a modern tiled floor. The lancet windows on the east side have segmental-pointed rear-arches over wide-splayed recesses. The north window has a pointed rear-arch with a hood-mould over three pointed arches also with hood-moulds, resting on detached shafts having moulded capitals and bases, all modern. In the south-east corner there are the mutilated basins of a twin piscina in a modern recess. Below the window there are two 12th-century tomb recesses with roll-mouldings, semicircular arches resting on short attached shafts with moulded capitals, one at each end, and a cluster of three in the centre; both have plain coffin lids. Under the seating against the east wall there is a stone altar-slab with consecration crosses.

The south transept (19 ft. by 16 ft. 2 in.), which is used as an organ chamber, has a modern roof and a wooden floor rising in shallow steps. The walls are plastered, with a boarded dado, and behind this dado in the south wall a 13th-century tomb recess is partly visible. It has a segmental-pointed arch of two deep moulded orders with alternate rolls and hollows, extending to the back of the recess; its hood-mould has been cut away; the lower part is not at present visible. The three lancets in the south wall have pointed rear-arches with splayed jambs, and on the east side the window has a stop-chamfered rear-arch with a splayed recess carried down to the floor.

The nave (49 ft. 5 in. by 18 ft. 6 in.) has a modern roof and tiled floor, boarded under the benches, except at the west end, which is stone-paved with a slight rise to the west wall. The south arcade has four bays, one opening into the transept. They have pointed arches of two splayed orders springing from octagonal pillars with moulded capitals and alternate splayed and moulded bases. At the east end the respond repeats the arch splays with moulded capitals and bases; the west respond has been cut away and its capital left as a corbel. The north arcade is very similar but the capitals vary in detail, the eastern arch dies into the wall without a respond, and all the bases are moulded. The chancel arch is pointed, of three splayed orders with narrow, moulded capitals carried round each of the splayed orders, with square bases and splayed corners, one of the splays on the south side having a carved head. They rest on a wall 3 ft. 3 in. above the chancel floor, probably

part of the earlier chancel wall. There are two steps to the chancel from the nave. The pointed tower arch has three splayed orders, the two outer splays slightly hollow, which are continued to the floor without capitals; it has been bricked up. The circular clear-story windows have segmental-pointed rear-arches. The font, placed in the centre of the nave opposite the south door is modern, with an octagonal basin and shaft. The pulpit, also modern, is placed to the south of the chancel arch.

The south aisle (35 ft. 8 in. by 7 ft.) has a modern tiled floor and flat, plastered ceiling. The west window has a pointed rear-arch with wide splayed jambs; the two on the south have flat heads, and the south door a semicircular rear-arch carried up higher than the arch to the door. The arch to the transept is pointed, of two splayed orders resting on a moulded corbel on the south wall and mitring with the arcade splays on the north.

The north aisle (34 ft. 10 in. by 7 ft.) has a modern tiled floor and a flat, plastered ceiling. The arch to the transept is pointed, of two splayed orders, and rests on a moulded corbel in the aisle wall and on a shaft attached to the arcade pillar, which has a circular upper member to its moulding that is carried round the shaft to form a capital; the moulded base is also continued round the shaft as a base. The base of this pillar stands on a piece of wall 1 ft. 10 in. high, probably part of the 12th-century work. Opening off the aisle is a shallow recess lighted by two windows; what its use was is uncertain. The window at the west end has a segmental-pointed rear-arch, with a wide-splayed recess, and the north door a chamfered rear-arch. The north door now gives access to a small vestry, which has plastered walls and a modern red-tiled floor. The doorway has a richly moulded pointed arch, dying out on splayed jambs, and a hood-mould with head-stops; it is fitted with a counterboarded door hung on strap hinges, probably 17th century, and has a small wicket of later date. On the east wall there are two lists of charities painted on canvas, and below them is an oak chest on legs, with two locks, with an inscription: 'The gift of Thomas Garit and Isabel his wife 1642'.

The tower has a concrete floor and in the north-east corner, which is splayed for the tower stair, there is a doorway with a semicircular head, probably 12th-century re-used. The bricked-up tower arch shows as three splayed orders carried down to the floor and above it are traces of an earlier semicircular tower arch.

In the north window of the north transept there are coats to the Shuckburgh family in modern coloured glass.

There are four bells by Thomas Russell, 1731, and a fifth which was recast by J. Warner & Son in 1874.<sup>78</sup>

The communion plate includes a silver chalice of 1752.

The registers begin in 1604.

There was a priest at Napton in AD FOWSON 1086,<sup>79</sup> and in 1291 the value of the church was £16 13s. 4d.<sup>80</sup> The history of the advowson in the 14th century is complicated, and gave rise to a lawsuit in 1447 between Thomas Shuckburgh, lord of the manor, who claimed it by descent from his grandmother Joan, one of the de Napton coheirresses, and John Thurstone, Warden of the college of Corpus Christi in St. Laurence Pountney

<sup>78</sup> Tilley and Walters, *Church Bells of Warwick*, 193.

<sup>79</sup> *V.C.H. Warwick*, i, 314.

<sup>80</sup> *Tax. Ecl.* (Rec. Com.), 242.

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church in the city of London,<sup>81</sup> who claimed by letters patent of 1385 authorizing Richard, Earl of Arundel, to grant to the college the advowson of Napton in exchange for an inn called Pulteneysyn, held of the king in burgage.<sup>82</sup> Judgement was given in favour of the college in the following year.<sup>83</sup> Licence to alienate in favour of this chantry or college had been given to Sir John de Pulteney, whose mother was Maud daughter of John de Napton,<sup>84</sup> as early as 1337, when the Pope, at the request of King Edward, directed the Archbishop of Canterbury to appropriate Napton church thereto.<sup>85</sup> Owing to a technical error this was not done until 1344, when the next Pope made the appropriation,<sup>86</sup> the king giving permission in 1345.<sup>87</sup> Richard de Napton, rector of Whilton (Northants.), relinquished all claims in certain lands, rents, and reversions in Napton to Sir John de Pulteney in 1348.<sup>88</sup> This grant still did not take effect, for in 1348 John (Stratford), Archbishop of Canterbury, obtained the advowson from John de Pulteney in exchange for that of Eastling (Kent) and was licensed to assign it to his recently founded college of chantry priests in Stratford-on-Avon parish church.<sup>89</sup> Archbishop Stratford died before this could be carried out, and his brother and heir, Bishop Robert Stratford of Chichester, granted the advowson to William de Shareshull, Thomas de Ludelow and William Banastre, who in 1361 obtained licence to alienate it, with a messuage and an acre of land, to Combe Abbey.<sup>90</sup> This, again, seems not to have been done, for by 1367 it was in the hands of Richard, Earl of Arundel,<sup>91</sup> who in 1385 made the exchange mentioned above. This was apparently not to take effect till after his death, for on his attainder in 1397 it was assigned to his widow Philippa in dower.<sup>92</sup>

The value of the vicarage in 1535 was £9 14s., with 8s. for procurations and synodals.<sup>93</sup> A payment of 40s. yearly was due from the college to Coventry Priory<sup>94</sup> for the great tithes of 12 virgates of which the priory was 'rector' (see above). The rectory in 1535 was farmed at £20.<sup>95</sup> It was granted in 1575 to Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester,<sup>96</sup> and by him in 1582 to Sir John Hubaud.<sup>97</sup> The patronage remained with the Crown, and is now exercised by the Lord Chancellor.

Sarah Tolley, by will dated 14 CHARITIES January 1932, gave to the vicar and churchwardens of Napton £100, to apply the income at Christmas for the benefit, in such manner as they think proper, of ten widows, each of whom shall be aged 60 years or over and shall be a poor person residing in the parish. The annual income of the charity amounts to £3 3s. 8d.

Clara Cole by will dated 10 August 1938 bequeathed to her trustee the field known as The Hollow at Napton and the sum of £100 and directed him to carry out her wishes that the field might be used as a playing-field for the children of the village of Napton and the sum of £100 be applied for its improvement. By a Trust Deed dated 2 August 1947 the trustees named therein were appointed to be trustees of the charity called Granton Playing Field for Children of Napton.

Thomas Meddoms, by will dated 9 March 1761, gave £50 to be laid out in the purchase of land to be conveyed to the vicar and churchwardens of Napton upon trust to pay the net yearly rents and produce to such poor people of the parish as they should think proper by two equal half-yearly payments on Christmas eve and Easter eve. The endowment of the charity now consists of a sum of stock representing the investment of the proceeds of the sale of the land purchased.

It is recorded on tablets in the vestry of Napton parish church that Henry Bates left £50, the interest to be divided equally between 20 poor widows on St. Thomas's Day.

Joseph Adams in 1816 gave to the poor £10.

Unknown donors gave £12 10s.

The annual income of these charities and the charity of Thomas Meddoms amounts to £3 18s. The charities are administered by a body of trustees consisting of the vicar *ex officio* and four trustees appointed by the parish council.

The Rev. Coleston Carr. The Returns to Parliament under the Act of 1786 mention a rent-charge of 4s. 8d. for bread for the poor. This gift is also recorded on the benefaction table as a charge upon an estate to be distributed on St. Thomas's Day and Good Friday. The charity is administered by a like body of trustees.

Town Lands. By deed dated 15 October 1629 one half-yardland was assured upon trust to apply the rents and profits in defraying the needful and common and town charges of the town of Napton as had been theretofore accustomed. The Act for inclosing the open fields of Napton-upon-the-Hill, dated 1778, directed that the rents of land to be allotted in lieu of the half-yardland should be applied to such purposes as should be agreed upon by the major part of the inhabitants of the said parish assembled at a vestry. By an Award dated 26 July 1779 a plot of land containing 9 a. 0 r. 2 p. was awarded to trustees for the uses mentioned in the Act. The endowment of the charity now consists of 11 a. 0 r. 11 p. of land, the income thereof being laid out in the purchase of coal. This charity is also administered by a like body of trustees.

Fuel Allotment. By an Award dated 26 July 1779 land containing 12 a. 0 r. 26 p. was awarded to the vicar, churchwardens, and overseers in lieu of the right of the parishioners of cutting furze and fuel, to be let and set by such trustees, the rents and profits to be received by them and on 21 December yearly be laid out in the purchase of fuel, meat, corn, apparel, or other necessities to be distributed amongst the industrious and honest poor of the parish not receiving collection or relief of the said parish. This charity is also administered by a like body of trustees.

Church Allotment. By the above-mentioned Award a plot of land containing 23 a. 0 r. 3 p. was awarded to the churchwardens of the parish of Napton in exchange for other lands the rents of which had always been applied to the repairs and other expenses of the church.

Charles Cox and James Whitehead (for the Poor's Charity) by an Indenture dated 28 April 1882 voluntarily granted to the then vicar, churchwardens,

<sup>81</sup> *Wm. Salt Soc. n.s.* iii, 176-7.

<sup>82</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1381-5, p. 527.

<sup>83</sup> *De Banco R. Mich.* 25 Hen. VI, m. 626.

<sup>84</sup> *Nichols, Lincs.* iv, 219.

<sup>85</sup> *Cal. Papal Letters*, ii, 542.

<sup>86</sup> *Ibid.* iii, 139; *Cal. Papal Pet.* i, 37.

<sup>87</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1343-5, p. 489.

<sup>88</sup> *Cal. Close*, 1346-9, p. 523. John de Pulteney died seized of these, held of Adam de Napton, in 1349; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ix, 183.

<sup>89</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1348-50, p. 130.

<sup>90</sup> *Ibid.* 1361-4, p. 122.

<sup>91</sup> *Epis. Reg. Rob. de Stratton* (Wm. Salt

*Soc.*), 127.

<sup>92</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 21 Ric. II, 137, m. 69.

<sup>93</sup> *Palat. Ecdl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 63.

<sup>94</sup> *Ibid.* 50, 61.

<sup>95</sup> *Ibid.* i, 387.

<sup>96</sup> *Pat.* 17 Eliz. pt. 5.

<sup>97</sup> *Feet of F. Div. Cos. Hil.* 24 Eliz.

and the two elder overseers of the poor of the parish of Nampton land containing 16 a. 3 r. 6 p. at Butt Hill, in the parish, upon trust to apply the rents for the benefit of old and deserving poor natives or inhabitants of the parish in such manner as a majority of the trustees should think fit. Four trustees of the charity are now appointed by the parish council in place of the churchwardens and the overseers.

Charles Cox and James Whitehead (for Nampton Friendly Society, &c.) by Indenture dated 28 April 1882 conveyed to the then vicar, churchwardens, and overseers of the poor of the parish land called the Dairy

Close or Nineteen Leys containing 11 a. in Nampton upon trust to pay the net income to the treasurer or trustees of the Nampton Friendly Society so long as such Society should exist for the purposes thereof, but if the Society should cease to exist as a Friendly Society then to apply the income for the benefit of old or deserving poor natives or inhabitants of the parish in such manner as a majority of the trustees should direct. The annual income of the charity is applied for the benefit of the poor of the parish and the charity is administered by the trustees of the charity of Cox and Whitehead (Poor's Charity).

## NEWBOLD-ON-AVON

## Acreage:

Newbold, 1,628

Cosford, 557

Little Lawford, 444

Long Lawford, 1,715

Total 4,344.

## Population:

Newbold, 1911, 728; 1921, 720; 1931, 1,685.

Cosford, 1911, 47; 1921, 41; 1931, 30.

Little Lawford, 1911, 24; 1921, 26; 1931, 21.

Long Lawford, 1911, 869; 1921, 912; 1931, 900.

The old parish contained the five townships or hamlets<sup>1</sup> of Newbold, Little Harborough, Cosford, Little Lawford, and Long Lawford, of which the three last became civil parishes in the 19th century. By the Rugby Urban District Extension Order of 1931 Newbold itself became part of the Urban District (since 1932 Borough) of Rugby, Little Harborough being transferred to Great Harborough.<sup>2</sup>

The eastern boundary of the old parish is formed by the River Swift, running for 1½ miles southwards into the River Avon. To the west of this stream Cosford forms a roughly rectangular block, averaging 1 mile from north to south and about ½ mile across, the hamlet lying in the extreme north on the right bank of the Swift. The north boundary runs down Spike Lane and westwards along other small lanes to Cathiron, whence a small stream runs southwards into the Avon. From the west end of Spike Lane a road leads south past Little Harborough to the village of Newbold, grouped to the north of the church on the road running west from Brownover to King's Newnham. The village lies at the top of one deep bend of the Avon, which then makes a reverse bend, at the southern tip of which is Thurnmill (see below), probably on the site of the mill at Long Lawford recorded in the Domesday Survey as worth 14s.<sup>3</sup> At this point there is an island in the river and just east of it the Sow Brook enters the Avon. This brook and one of its branches form the eastern boundary of Long Lawford, of which the large village stretches for nearly half a mile along a road which runs north from the Rugby-Church Lawford road, with its chapel of St. John, built in 1839, at its north end. Immediately beyond the chapel begins the township of Little Lawford, which lies on either side of the Avon. The mill here, mentioned in the Domesday Survey as worth 4s.,<sup>4</sup> was on the site of the later Little Lawford corn mill, the island opposite it being referred to in the 12th century as 'the holm south of the mill'.<sup>5</sup> The mill was then held by the monks of Pipewell Abbey and an agreement was made by which the men of Roger Pantolf were to have

access to the river for fishing when the mill-pond was full.<sup>6</sup>

The Oxford Canal crosses the parish immediately north of Newbold village, with a branch leading to the Newbold Lime Works, south of the church. The Leicester and Rugby line of the former L.M.S. Railway runs through the centre of Cosford; the main line from Rugby to Birmingham crosses the parish due west just below Long Lawford village; and the Trent Valley branch leads north-west from the Avon to Cathiron Spinney; but there is no station in the parish.

The older part of the village of Newbold, consisting of red brick 18th-century houses and some timber-framed of the 17th century, lies west of the church on a hill. At the foot of the hill, to the east, a modern settlement has developed.

Little Lawford, or Hall Farm, on the north boundary, is a long rectangular building, two stories high, of the 16th century, built of squared limestone with sandstone dressings and a chamfered plinth. It has a modern slated roof, brick chimneys, and two dormer windows. The west front was refaced and a plain parapet added in 1604. There is a string-course at first-floor level, and it has four square-headed three-light windows equally spaced to each floor; the mullions have been removed and timber frames inserted, except in one to the south which has been blocked and retains its mullions; all have hood-moulds with return ends. Above a modern central porch and door is a tablet with the date 1604. The back retains some 16th-century features; it has two wide doorways with four-centred heads, one towards each end, and several original square-headed windows of two splays to the ground floor; the first-floor windows have been blocked and modern frames inserted. There are original two-light windows to the roof space in the north and south gables. The interior has been modernized and no original features remain.

An elaborate agreement<sup>7</sup> was made in 1210 between the abbey of Pipewell and Roger Pantolf by which the monks were to have pasture rights for all the cattle and beasts of their grange of Long Lawford and of Thurnmill on Long Lawford Moor, including a thousand sheep if Roger or his heirs put sheep on the moor. They were also allowed to cut turves up to the edge of the Church Lawford turbarry, where they could not cut them. The thicket (*spinetum*) of Thurnmill was divided between the monks and Roger and each could do what they would with their half. The monks had fishing rights in their mill-pond and the right to set fish-traps (*corbellai*) in the 'Lavalesun aqua'

<sup>1</sup> *Warw. Co. Recs.* iii, 274.

<sup>2</sup> Kelly, *Direct. of Warw.* (1936).

<sup>3</sup> *P.C.H. Warw.* i, 336.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.* 323.

<sup>5</sup> Cott. MS. Otho B. xiv, fol. 190 v.

<sup>6</sup> *Cat. Anc. D.* iii, D. 177.

<sup>7</sup> Madox, *Formulare*, xlvii.

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

(perhaps the Sow Brook), but Roger had all the fishing in the Avon.

In 1333 John de Merynton, farmer of Newbold Grange, forcibly inclosed 'la grene' in front of the grange, where the tenants, great and small, had grazing rights.<sup>8</sup> In 1773 there is reference to 'late inclosure' at Long Lawford having altered the constitution of the yardlands.<sup>9</sup> By 1735 Cosford, Little Harborough, and Cathron had mostly been inclosed, but the centre of the parish was still open-field.<sup>10</sup> Open fields in Newbold and Long Lawford Heath were inclosed under an Act of 1773.<sup>11</sup>

**NEWBOLD**, assessed at 8 hides, was **MANORS** among the estates held by Geoffrey de Wirce in 1086,<sup>12</sup> and with his other lands came to Niel d'Aubigny and his descendants the Mowbrays, two fees here being held of John de Mowbray at his death in 1361.<sup>13</sup> Early in the 12th century Robert de Stuteville was enfeoffed in Newbold,<sup>14</sup> and the mesne lordship remained with his descendants,<sup>15</sup> Thomas, Lord Wake of Lidell, holding it in 1349,<sup>16</sup> and Elizabeth, dowager Countess of Kent, in 1411,<sup>17</sup> in which year the lordship of the quarter-fee passed to Margaret, widow of the Earl of Somerset and coheir of Elizabeth's husband John, Earl of Kent.<sup>18</sup>

Roger de Stuteville (grandson of Robert) gave the manor of Newbold-on-Avon to his sister's son Roger Pantolf,<sup>19</sup> from whom it was sometimes known as **NEWBOLD PANTOLF**, or **PAUNTON**.<sup>20</sup> Roger's son and heir William Pantolf was a benefactor of the Northamptonshire abbey of Pipewell, to which he retired in his old age; but because he was turned out of his chamber to make room for 'a great Justice' (who was probably on circuit) William went off in anger to the priory of Monks Kirby, where he died (c. 1245) and left to that house his chief message, 3 carucates of land, and fishing rights in the Avon, which he had intended to leave to Pipewell.<sup>21</sup> William left no issue and his coheirs were his sisters Emma, who married Robert de Waver, lord of Chesters Over, and Burga, who gave her share to Pipewell.<sup>22</sup> The Waver portion of Newbold was held of Thomas Wake of Lidell in 1349 as a quarter-fee by Thomas de Waver;<sup>23</sup> it is said to have been bought by William Barbour, whose granddaughter married Richard Dalby of Brockhampton.<sup>24</sup> Richard died in 1477 seised of a quarter of the manor of Newbold, held of the Duke of Norfolk (representing the Mowbrays), leaving a son Robert.<sup>25</sup>

The priory of Monks Kirby held a moiety of the manor of Newbold Paunton in 1276 and had done so for the past twenty years.<sup>26</sup> In 1305 the grants of free warren and other franchises made to the priory included Newbold,<sup>27</sup> which was also among the manors of the priory confirmed to the Carthusians of Axholme in 1415.<sup>28</sup> At the Dissolution this estate was probably

absorbed into the manor of Monks Kirby (q.v.), as tenements in Newbold Paunton which were held in 1626 by Adolphus Ryplingham had formed part of the Earl of Hertford's manor of Monks Kirby;<sup>29</sup> but a so-called manor of Newbold 'Pantoffe', formerly of Axholme monastery, was acquired in 1640 by William Boughton<sup>30</sup> and presumably descended with his other estates in this parish.

Burga de Bending, Roger Pantolf's daughter, gave to Pipewell Abbey land in Mikelhamme near Thyrnemill (*molendinum de Spineto*) in Newbold.<sup>31</sup> By 1291 the abbey had in Newbold, besides 1 carucate at Thyrnemill worth 16s., 2 carucates worth 30s., a mill worth 6s. 8d., and 6s. in rents.<sup>32</sup> In 1321 the monks leased the grange of Newbold to John de Merynton, Henry his brother, and Hugh and Agnes their parents, for their lives; the hall at this time was in ruin but there was an excellent barn, and the other buildings were all rebuilt.<sup>33</sup> The grange was acquired, with that of Long Lawford, by Edward Boughton in 1542.<sup>34</sup> It is called a manor in 1640, when William Boughton had it.<sup>35</sup>

The estates of Geoffrey de Wirce in 1086 included 5 hides in [**LONG**] **LAWFORD**.<sup>36</sup> In the second half of the 12th century Sir John de Stuteville, who was lord of Long Lawford, Newbold, and Cosford, gave to Pipewell Abbey the grange of Lawford with the 'inland', or demesne, appurtenant to it; he also gave a thicket (*placeum spinosum*) called Blakethyrne, where the monks built a water-mill and a fulling-mill adjoining it and changed its name to Thyrnemill—which mills were completely destroyed by fire on the day of St. Thomas the martyr (29 December) 1328.<sup>37</sup> Henry II confirmed to the abbey the gifts of Robert de Stuteville, John his brother, and John and Roger, sons of the said John in Lawford.<sup>38</sup> Many other gifts of land in Long Lawford<sup>39</sup> were made to the abbey, and by 1349 the knight's fee in Newbold, Lawford, and Cosford, which had been held of the Wakes by 'the heirs of Roger Pantolf' in 1281,<sup>40</sup> was held by the Abbot of Pipewell.<sup>41</sup> In 1291 the abbey had in Lawford 5 carucates worth £3s, rents amounting to 14s., a mill worth 10s., 2s. in rents in their manorial court, and 6s. 8d. of farm stock.<sup>42</sup> In 1535 the monks were deriving £3 or 10s. from Long Lawford and 9s. 4d. from Cosford.<sup>43</sup> Between 1483 and 1485 the convent of Pipewell demised the granges of Long Lawford and Newbold, with that of Bilton, to Richard Boughton, William Boughton (his son) and Agnes his wife, for 99 years.<sup>44</sup> William in 1522 made a settlement on his son Edward, then aged 14, who in 1542 obtained from the Crown a grant in fee of the granges,<sup>45</sup> of which he died seised in 1547,<sup>46</sup> his son William being then only 4 years old.<sup>47</sup> This William died in 1596, similarly seised,<sup>48</sup> and the granges descended with the manor of

<sup>8</sup> Cott. MS. Otho B. xiv, fol. 190 v.

<sup>9</sup> *Warw. Co. Rec.* v, 208.

<sup>10</sup> Map among Buccleuch muniments.

<sup>11</sup> Private Acts 13 Geo. III, c. 64.

<sup>12</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* i, 336.

<sup>13</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* xi, 144.

<sup>14</sup> Dugd. 95.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.* pedigree.

<sup>16</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ix, p. 208.

<sup>17</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 12 Hen. IV, no. 35.

<sup>18</sup> *Cal. Close*, 1809-13, p. 248.

<sup>19</sup> Cott. MS. Otho B. xiv, fol. 189.

<sup>20</sup> *Place-Names of Warw.* 116.

<sup>21</sup> Cott. MS. Otho B. xiv, fol. 189 v.

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid.* fol. 189; Assize R. 952, m. 10.

<sup>23</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ix, p. 208.

<sup>24</sup> Dugd. 96.

<sup>25</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 20 Edw. IV, no. 89.

<sup>26</sup> *Rot. Hundr.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 225.

<sup>27</sup> *Cal. Chart. R.* iii, 50, 60.

<sup>28</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1413-16, p. 355.

<sup>29</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cccxcv, 67.

<sup>30</sup> *Pat. 15 Chas. I*, pt. 11.

<sup>31</sup> *Add. Chart.* 21481, 21484. Cf.

*Starrs* (Jewish Hist. Soc.), ii, 306.

<sup>32</sup> *Tax. Ecl.* (Rec. Com.), 257.

<sup>33</sup> Cott. MS. Otho B. xiv, fol. 190.

John de Merynton was the largest taxpayer in Newbold in 1332: *Lay Subt. R.*

(Dugd. Soc.), 49.

<sup>34</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xvii, 283 (12).

<sup>35</sup> *Pat. 15 Chas. I*, pt. 11.

<sup>36</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* i, 336.

<sup>37</sup> Cott. MS. Otho B. xiv, fol. 189.

<sup>38</sup> *Cal. Chart. R.* i, 207.

<sup>39</sup> *Cat. of Anct. D.* ii, B. 1863-4, 1875,

1880, 1884, 1893, 1895, 1898-9, 1901,

1906, 1909.

<sup>40</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ii, 439.

<sup>41</sup> *Ibid.* ix, p. 208; cf. *Cal. Close*, 1349-

54, p. 553.

<sup>42</sup> *Tax. Ecl.* (Rec. Com.), 257.

<sup>43</sup> *Valor Ecl.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 295.

<sup>44</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), lxxxv, 85.

<sup>45</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xvii, 283 (12).

<sup>46</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), lxxxv, 85.

<sup>47</sup> *Ibid.*; *Cal. Pat.* 1547-8, p. 308.

<sup>48</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), ccxvi, 60.





NAPTON CHURCH, c. 1820



NEWBOLD-ON-AVON CHURCH, c. 1820



Little Lawford (see below), until the murder of Sir Theodosius Boughton in 1780, when Long Lawford went, with Brownsover in Clifton (q.v.) to his sister Theodosia, who married Sir Egerton Leigh. The manor was held in 1936 by Capt. Henry Allesley Ward Boughton-Leigh.<sup>49</sup>

Manors of Lawford and Cosford, formerly of Pipewell Abbey, were granted by the Crown in June 1553 to John Grene of Westminster and Ralph Hall, scrivener,<sup>50</sup> who in January 1554 had licence to grant them to Elizabeth Boughton, widow.<sup>51</sup> She had been wife of Sir Nicholas Barrington and then second wife of William (son of Richard) Boughton.<sup>52</sup> In September 1556 she settled tenements in Long Lawford on Thomas Boughton, the eldest of her seven sons, and his wife, Margaret daughter of Edward Cave.<sup>53</sup> It is possible that these manors were conveyed after her death in 1558<sup>54</sup> to Thomas Wightman, who in 1562 alienated manors of Lawford, Newbold, and Cosford to Sir Thomas Leigh and Alice his wife.<sup>55</sup> These manors then descended with Dunchurch (q.v.) to the Dukes of Montagu and Buccleuch.<sup>56</sup> In 1710 the Duke held courts leet and baron in Long Lawford and Newbold and free fishery in the Avon, which with  $\frac{1}{2}$  yardland and 2 closes in Newbold and in Bilton were worth £55, in addition to chief rents of 4s. 8½d. In 1732 the Montagu estate in Newbold amounted to 1,230 acres, including 14 kept by the duke in his own hands and 35 in glebe. His 15 tenants included Sir Edward (237) and Lady Boughton (400 acres) and the Duchy of Lancaster (269 acres).<sup>57</sup>

In 1086 [LITTLE] LAWFORD, rated at 2 hides, was held of Turchil by Leveva.<sup>58</sup> With other estates of Turchil it came to the Earls of Warwick, being held of the earl in 1235 and 1242 as one-fifth knight's fee.<sup>59</sup> The one-fifth fee was assigned in dower to Alice widow of Earl Guy in 1316,<sup>60</sup> and was held by Earl Thomas at his death in 1400.<sup>61</sup>

Roger de Craft held the manor in the 12th century, when he granted a mill here to the monks of Pipewell, to hold by payment of 2 marks rent, his gift being confirmed by Henry II.<sup>62</sup> The rent was remitted by his son Roger,<sup>63</sup> the monks later agreeing to pay 10s. yearly to the priory of Monks Kirby, as rectors of Newbold, in lieu of the tithes from the mill, which they could not pay without infringing the privileges of the Cistercian Order.<sup>64</sup> Roger is said to have granted the vill of Little Lawford to John de Chavini, who bestowed it on Combe Abbey.<sup>65</sup> That abbey, whose property here was valued at £1 8s. 7d. in 1291,<sup>66</sup> came to an agreement with Pipewell in 1226 by which the monks of Pipewell were to pay yearly to Combe 20s. in return for a message and 6 acres of land; but by the 15th century it was not known where this message and

land was, 'and that passes man's understanding and is truly marvellous',<sup>67</sup> so that the compiler of the Pipewell chartulary sarcastically observes that the payment was made 'because the moon shines on the water, as the saying is',<sup>68</sup> none the less the payment was still being made in 1535.<sup>69</sup> Roger de Craft, however, held the one-fifth fee in 1235 and 1242.<sup>70</sup> He died c. 1250, his coheirs being his three sisters,<sup>71</sup> but this manor seems to have passed to Geoffrey de Craft (perhaps his uncle), who was murdered here in 1255.<sup>72</sup> He had married Maud sister of Philip (son of Roger?) Pantolf.<sup>73</sup> This Philip was associated with a Roger de Craft in 1268 in a suit with the Prior of Monks Kirby.<sup>74</sup> Geoffrey de Craft is said to have been lord of the manor in 1276,<sup>75</sup> and in 1316 the one-fifth fee was held by the abbots of Combe and Pipewell and Geoffrey de Craft.<sup>76</sup> Alice de Craft, who was one of the largest taxpayers in Little Lawford in 1332,<sup>78</sup> was dealing with land here in 1327.<sup>79</sup> In 1360 licence for an oratory at Lawford in Newbold was granted for two years to John de Merynton,<sup>80</sup> and similar licences were granted to Thomas de Merynton for his manor of Little Lawford in 1367, 1370, 1372, and 1376.<sup>81</sup> A John Merynton of Lawford occurs in 1399,<sup>82</sup> and there is mention in 1406 of Thomas Merynton of Little Lawford and Margery his wife,<sup>83</sup> but in 1440 Geoffrey Allesley<sup>84</sup> and Eleanor his wife and Thomas Boughton and Elizabeth his wife (their daughter)<sup>85</sup> made a settlement of the manor,<sup>86</sup> and in 1449 Giles Norton and Alice his wife conveyed her rights in the manor to Thomas and Elizabeth.<sup>87</sup> Their great-grandson Edward Boughton had, as already mentioned, acquired the Pipewell property in this parish and died in 1547 seised of the manor of Little Lawford, which he had settled on his wife Elizabeth<sup>88</sup> (one of the daughters and coheirs of William Willington). It then descended in the family of Boughton with Brownsover in Clifton (q.v.), until the murder of Sir Theodosius Boughton, 8th baronet, in 1780;<sup>89</sup> his successor, Sir Edward Boughton, pulled down Lawford Hall and sold the manor to John Caldecott in 1793,<sup>90</sup> who built Holbrook Grange and was lord of the manor until 1835. From him it passed to Charles Marriott Caldecott, whose daughter Merriel, widow of Charles Godfrey Bolam, held the estate in 1937.<sup>91</sup>

The Wake knight's fee held by the Pantolfs and Wavers lay in Newbold, Lawford, and Cosford.<sup>92</sup> The portion constituting the manor of COSFORD evidently descended with Cesters Over in Monks Kirby



CALDECOTT. *Argent a fesse azure fretty or between three cinquefoils gules.*

<sup>49</sup> Kelly, *Direct. of Warw.* (1936).

<sup>50</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1553, p. 215.

<sup>51</sup> *Ibid.* 1553-4, p. 364; C.P. Deeds

enr. Trin. 1 Mary, m. 18.

<sup>52</sup> *Dugd.* 100.

<sup>53</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cxv, 75.

<sup>54</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>55</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1560-3, p. 389; Feet of F.

Warw. East. 4 Eliz.

<sup>56</sup> *Ibid.* Dir. Cos. Mich. 17-18 Eliz.; Warw. Hil. 1 Chas. I; Gamekeepers' Deputations (1724-1808).

<sup>57</sup> Buccleuch-Queensberry MSS. Northants. Rec. Soc.

<sup>58</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* i, 323.

<sup>59</sup> *Bk. of Fees*, 508, 957.

<sup>60</sup> *Cal. Close*, 1313-18, p. 278.

<sup>61</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 2 Hen. IV, no. 58.

<sup>62</sup> *Cal. Chanc. R.* i, 207.

<sup>63</sup> *Cott. MS. Otho B. xiv*, fol. 190 v.

<sup>64</sup> *Ibid.* fol. 190. <sup>65</sup> *Dugd.* 99.

<sup>66</sup> *Tax. Eccl. (Rec. Com.)*, 255.

<sup>67</sup> *Cott. MS. Otho B. xiv*, fol. 190 v.

<sup>68</sup> *Ibid.* fol. 192.

<sup>69</sup> *Valor Eccl. (Rec. Com.)*, iv, 295.

<sup>70</sup> *Bk. of Fees*, 508, 957.

<sup>71</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* iii, 43.

<sup>72</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1247-58, p. 439; *Cal. Close*,

1254-6, p. 280.

<sup>73</sup> *Cat. Anct. D. ii*, B. 1909.

<sup>74</sup> *Madox, Formulæ*, no. 158.

<sup>75</sup> *Cal. Close*, 1264-8, p. 516.

<sup>76</sup> *Dugd.* 99.

<sup>77</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, p. 405; *Cal. Close*,

1313-18, p. 278.

<sup>78</sup> *Lay Subs. R.* (Dugd. Soc.), 49.

<sup>79</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xv), 1814.

<sup>80</sup> *Ep. Reg. Rob. de Stretton* (Wm. Salt Soc. n.s. viii), 7. <sup>81</sup> *Ibid.* 41, 51, 62, 72.

<sup>82</sup> *Ibid.* 1399-1402, p. 82.

<sup>83</sup> *Ibid.* 1405-9, p. 115.

<sup>84</sup> He was 'of Little Lawford' in 1434:

*Cal. Pat.* 1420-26, p. 384.

<sup>85</sup> *Dugd.* 100, pedigree.

<sup>86</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xviii), 2608.

<sup>87</sup> *Ibid.* 2639.

<sup>88</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), lxxxv, 85.

<sup>89</sup> G. E. C. *Complete Baronetage*, ii, 122.

<sup>90</sup> Kelly, *Direct. of Warw.* (1936).

<sup>91</sup> Burke, *Landed Gentry* (1937).

<sup>92</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* i, 793; ii, 439.

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(q.v.) in the Waver family, being held at her death in 1545 by Christine, daughter of Sir Henry Waver and wife first of William Browne and then of Humphrey Dymmock.<sup>93</sup> The Abbey of Pipewell also held land here,<sup>94</sup> called a manor when granted to John Grame and Ralph Hall<sup>95</sup> and by them conveyed to Elizabeth Boughton in 1554.<sup>96</sup> Two manors of Cosford have descended with the Boughton and Montagu manors of Long Lawford respectively.<sup>97</sup> The Montagu manor was much the larger, comprising 532 acres in 1732. Rugby School appears among the 21 tenants, holding 48 acres.<sup>98</sup>

Little Harborough was one of the places in which the Abbey of Combe had grants of free warren and other franchises in 1305.<sup>99</sup> It is referred to as a grange in 1258<sup>1</sup> and the abbey's rents here in 1291 amounted to 5s. 9d.<sup>2</sup> In 1361 a quarter-fee here was held of John de Mowbray by the Prior of Monks Kirby,<sup>3</sup> but the place was never a manor. In 1732 513 acres here belonged to the Duke of Montagu, his chief tenant being Sir Edward Boughton.<sup>4</sup>

The church of *ST. BOTOLPH* *CHURCHES* stands just below the summit of a hill in a small churchyard. It dates from the 15th century and is built on the site of an earlier one, indicated by an exposed portion of an early-14th-century tiled floor 3 in. below the present level of the nave floor. The chancel was rebuilt in the 19th century, a parapet was added to the south aisle and the whole church reroofed. It consists of a chancel, nave, north and south aisles, north and south porches, and west tower. It is constructed of a mixture of sandstone and limestone rubble with sandstone dressings.

The rebuilt chancel is of sandstone ashlar with diagonal buttresses at the angles, central buttresses on the north and south, and a low-pitched roof behind a plain parapet. The east end is lighted by a traceried window of three cinquefoil lights with hood-mould and head-stops; the north side by two of two lights; the south also by two of two lights, with a moulded pointed doorway between them. The south aisle has diagonal buttresses at the angles and a low-pitched roof behind a rebuilt plain parapet with crocketed pinnacles at each end; the string-course at its base has also been renewed, but retains two original gargoyles. It is lighted by four traceried windows of three lights with four-centred heads of two hollow splays, one west of the porch, two east, and one in the west wall.

The south porch is rectangular, with diagonal buttresses at the angles, terminating above a plain parapet in crocketed pinnacles. It is built of red sandstone ashlar, but has been almost entirely refaced and the pinnacles, centre panel, and parapets have been renewed. The entrance is wide with a richly moulded four-centred head, the mouldings continuing down the jambs to splayed stops. Above the entrance, spandrels have been formed by continuing the parapet to meet the apex of a low-pitched gable, where it is carried up as a panel containing a sundial within a canopied niche.<sup>5</sup> The ceiling is a stone vault with moulded ribs resting on carved and moulded corbels in each angle and

terminating in an octagonal boss decorated with four quatrefoils. On either side there is a pointed traceried window of two trefoil lights with a hood-mould. The doorway is modern and has splayed jambs with a four-centred head; the stone seats on both sides are also modern.

The clearstory has battlemented parapets on moulded string-courses with carved gargoyles at intervals and is lighted on both sides by four traceried windows each of three trefoil lights under four-centred heads; all their tracery has been restored. The north aisle is similar to the south except for the omission of the parapet wall.

The north porch, built of red sandstone ashlar, has a low-pitched roof behind a plain parapet, diagonal buttresses at the angles and a moulded plinth. Internally it has a plain flat plaster ceiling. The entrance has a moulded arch with a deep moulded splay and hood-mould, both supported on moulded capitals, the arch mouldings being continued down the jambs to die out on the splayed plinth. On the porch side all the mouldings have been hacked off to a rough splay. On each side of the entrance there are two moulded trefoiled niches with elaborate gabled and crocketed canopies, and below there are bowl-shaped pedestals for images, supported on short half-round shafts. The buttresses are panelled with trefoiled heads, gabled and crocketed and terminating in bases for missing pinnacles. The stonework has been somewhat mutilated and is badly decayed, and much of the detail has been lost. It is lighted on each side by a pointed hollow-moulded window of two trefoil lights with a pierced quatrefoil. The doorway has a four-centred arch under a flat head.

The tower, built of red sandstone ashlar, rises in four stages, diminished by weathered offsets at each stage except on the west side, which is diminished at the two upper stories only. The two lower stages have wide flat buttresses splayed to diagonal and carried up to the top of a battlemented parapet to form square bases for pinnacles, now missing. The parapet rests on a coved string-course with grotesque gargoyles on each face. A large moulded traceried window of five cinquefoil lights with a hood-mould and mask stops occupies the two lower stages of the west side. On the south is a square-headed loop-light to the ringing-chamber, and on the second stage of the west buttress there is a sundial. There is a narrow doorway with a four-centred head to the tower stair on the north side against the west buttress, the stair having loop-lights in each stage, and in the third stage there is a clock dial. The belfry windows on each face have two cinquefoil lights under four-centred heads of two splayed orders.

The 19th-century chancel (30 ft. by 15 ft. 4 in.) is paved with stone, including some 18th-century memorial slabs, and has plastered walls. The altar and rails are of oak and date from the 17th century, the rails having turned oak balusters with moulded rail and sole-piece. On the north wall there are two 19th-century memorials, one to Sir Egerton Leigh, bart., died 1818; and built against the south wall there is a large black and white marble monument,<sup>6</sup> by John

<sup>93</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), lxxii, 111. Cf. Feet of F. Div. Cos. Mich. 30 Hen. VIII.

<sup>94</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 295.

<sup>95</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1553, p. 215.

<sup>96</sup> *Ibid.* 1553-4, p. 364.

<sup>97</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations.

<sup>98</sup> Buccleuch-Queensberry MSS. North-

ants. Rec. Soc. (Vol. of Maps of Lord John Scott's Warw. Estates, 3(11)).

<sup>99</sup> *Cal. Chart.* R. iii, 50, 60.

<sup>1</sup> *Fet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xi), 775.

<sup>2</sup> *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 255.

<sup>3</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* xi, 144.

<sup>4</sup> Buccleuch-Queensberry MSS. North-ants. Rec. Soc. (Vol. of Maps of Lord

John Scott's Warw. Estates, 3(11)).

<sup>5</sup> A drawing in the Aylesford Collection (c. 1820) shows a steeply pitched tiled roof, the gable-end, of timber and plaster, incorporating the panel.

<sup>6</sup> Described in *Birm. Arch. Soc. Trans.* lvii, 165-6.



Hunt of Northampton, to Sir William Boughton, died 1716, and his wife Catherine. It has two figures, life-size, in the dress of the period. Between them is a large urn flanked by two skulls. Behind them there is a canopy supported on Corinthian pilasters with a scroll pediment containing a coat of arms with curtains below drawn back to reveal three cherubs' heads in clouds. On the south wall, suspended from an iron bracket is a helmet with the Boughton crest and a sword, probably 17th-century.

The nave (56 ft. by 18 ft. 4 in.) has plastered walls and a modern roof supported on the original corbels. The arcades each consist of four bays with pointed arches of two splayed orders supported on lozenge-shaped piers composed of the outer arch splays and roll-mouldings, which die out on plain bases. At each end there are responds formed by half-piers. The inner order rests on large roll-mouldings with moulded capitals and smaller ones are continued as shafts on either side with moulded capitals to support the nave and aisle roofs. At the east end of the south arcade there is a narrow ogee-headed doorway, rebated for a door to a circular stair leading to an upper door with a chamfered pointed head which gave access to a rood-loft. The chancel arch is pointed, of two splayed orders, supported on responds which repeat the arch mouldings with a moulded capital to the inner order. On the nave side, a modern label-moulding with return ends has been added; above it there is a framed royal arms, dated 1796. The tower arch is pointed, of three splayed orders, resting on half-round responds with moulded capitals and bases. All the clearstory windows have plain four-centred rear-arches. The pulpit of oak, placed to the north of the chancel arch and dated 1909, is octagonal with linenfold panels. The font, standing in the centre of the nave at the western end, is of stone, octagonal, each side decorated with sunk quatrefoils, and supported on a panelled octagonal shaft, the panels having trefoiled heads. It has a deep lead-lined basin, the lead being dressed over the rim and finished with a cable-moulded edge. The stonework has been redressed, but it probably dates from the early 14th century.

The north aisle (52 ft. 6 in. by 9 ft. 3 in.) has a modern roof supported on the original corbels, a stone-paved floor and unplastered walls. In the north side of the arcade wall at its eastern end there is a piscina with a four-centred head, but the projecting portion of its basin has been cut away. The door and windows have plain four-centred rear-arches.

The south aisle (53 ft. 10 in. by 10 ft. 6 in.) is similar to the north, but the western bay has been screened off as a vestry and organ chamber. The eastern bay has been enclosed by an oak open panelled screen dated 1905, presented by a member of the Boughton family to enclose four monuments. The earliest of these monuments is that of Geoffrey Allesley and Eleanor his wife, who died 1441. It is an altar tomb with trefoil-headed panels, ten on each side and three at the ends. The slab, which has a hollow-moulded edge with paterae, is of white alabaster incised with the outlines of a man and woman in the dress of the period with dogs at their feet and a marginal inscription, the outlines and inscription filled with pitch.<sup>7</sup> Under a modern tomb recess in the south wall there is a similar type of monument<sup>8</sup> with a marginal inscription to

Thomas Boughton and Elizabeth his wife, died 1454. The two figures are in black outline, with six shields enamelled in black and red, three above, and three below the figures. The man is dressed in armour, wearing spurs and has a dagger on his right side and a sword on his left, his feet resting on a muzzled bear with a collar and chain. The woman is in the dress of the period, two dogs at her feet each holding the hem of her dress in their teeth. The sides have round-headed panels containing demi-angels holding blank shields. On the north wall there is an alabaster wall memorial, redecorated in colour, to Edward Boughton, died 1548, and his wife Elizabeth, died 1583.<sup>9</sup> It is in two tiers separated by an inscription, each tier has fluted columns at the ends supporting a cornice. In the upper tier, on the left are two women wearing ruffles, and a swathed child, one of the women kneeling at a desk with an open book. On the right are a man in armour kneeling at a desk and three swathed children. Between the two kneeling figures there is an heraldic shield. The lower tier is divided into two panels by a fluted column, the left panel having the standing figures of a man and woman holding a shield of arms between them, each carrying a scroll. The woman wears a ruffe and the man armour, with a sword on his left side. The panel to the right contains the standing figure of a man in doublet and hose holding a scroll in one hand and a shield of arms, the sinister half left blank. There is no inscription to the lower tier. Opposite, on the south wall there is another monument of similar type, to Edward Boughton and Elizabeth his wife; Edward died 1625, Elizabeth died 1619; and to his son William, died 1635, and Abigail his wife, died 1636.<sup>10</sup> In the upper tier are a man and woman kneeling, with a shield of arms between them, on the left a son and two shields, on the right a daughter and one shield. The man is in armour and both are wearing ruffles. In the lower tier are a man and woman kneeling, with a desk between them an open book facing each. Above the desk there is a shield, and another to the left of the man. On the left are three sons kneeling, two now headless; on the right two daughters, both have their heads missing. The man is in armour and the woman in the dress of the period. It is surmounted by a pediment containing a shield of arms and below the lower inscription there is a pendant representing a heart.

The tower (12 ft. by 11 ft.) has unplastered walls and is shut off from the nave by a wrought iron railing with ornamental panels each end, ornamental cresting, and the Boughton arms and crest blazoned in colour. These railings originally enclosed the monument in the chancel to Sir Wm. Boughton. A doorway has been cut through the wall to the tower stair to give internal access in addition to the original external door. The upper stage is corbelled out to an octagon for a spire which has either been destroyed or was never built.

The clock is by Sam Dalton of Rugby and dated 1795. An earlier clock was in bad condition in 1655 but the parishioners refused to contribute to its repair, 'they having no benefit thereby'.<sup>11</sup> In the nave and aisle there are a number of 17th-century forms with turned legs and ovolo-moulded edges to the seats. These may date from 1653, when it was said that many 'substantial parishioners' had no seats in the church and other seats were so narrow that people could not kneel in them. Moreover, most of the church was filled

<sup>7</sup> Described and figured *ibid.* xlix, 40-1, pl. xvi (1).

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.* 41-2, pl. xv (2).

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.* xlviii, 162-3, pl. xxviii.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.* lviii, 144-5, pl. xxvii (2).

<sup>11</sup> *Warwick Co. Records*, iii, 274, 327.

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with servants and boys, while aged people and others of better rank were seated near the door, in so cold a part of the church, standing upon a hill, that they cannot endure the cold in the winter. Mr. Richard Hall, the rector, and the churchwardens were to appoint seats.<sup>12</sup> Sir William Boughton, the patron, then advanced £16 10s. out of his own pocket to repair the church, which was so in decay that people could not sit dry to hear the Word of God, but the parishioners disputed the levying of a church rate.<sup>13</sup>

In the chancel there are two 17th-century oak chairs with carved backs and turned front legs, one dated I.P. 1675. An early-18th-century carved chair with cane back and seat and a long oak chest of the 17th century with a panelled front, half-hexagonal shaped lid bound with iron straps, and fitted with four locks.

The plate consists of a silver alms-dish, the gift of Dame Catherine Boughton, 1703; a silver flagon—gift of Sir Wm. Boughton, bart., 1708; and a silver chalice, with hallmark of 1732.

There are six bells, all cast by John Briant in 1792, one being then new and the other five recast from the metal of four old bells.<sup>14</sup>

The registers commence in 1559.

The chapel of *ST. JOHN*, at Long Lawford, north of the village in a small churchyard, consists of a chancel, nave, south porch, and a small vestry. It was built in 1839 of red brick with artificial stone dressings, now washed over with cement; the roof is slated and has a bell-cote for a single bell at the west end. It has triple lancet windows on the east and west and three lancets on the north and south. Internally the walls are plastered and the floor is stone paved. The nave is 40 ft. by 25 ft. and the chancel 15 ft. by 7 ft. 6 in. There is a pointed arch to the chancel with a corresponding one to a recess at the west end. The plate consists of a silver flagon, chalice, and paten, the gift of J. Caldecott in 1839.

The churchyard is entered by a timber-framed lych-gate roofed with stone slates, erected in 1902.

The church and tithes of Newbold-*ADFOWSON* on-Avon were given to the abbey of St. Nicholas, Angers, by Geoffrey de Wirce and were therefore part of the endowment of that abbey's cell, the priory of Monks Kirby.<sup>15</sup> Early in the 13th century the church was appropriated, the monks receiving two-thirds of the issues of the rectory and the vicar the other third.<sup>16</sup> In 1291 it was valued at £12 13s. 4d.<sup>17</sup> With the other possessions of the priory it passed to the Carthusian priory of Axholme, amongst whose property the rectory and advowson were surrendered to Henry VIII in 1539.<sup>18</sup> They remained in the hands of the Crown until 1640, when they were bought with the Axholme manor of Newbold<sup>19</sup> (see above), with which they have since descended with the Boughton estate.

A tenement called the Chantry House with lands in this parish belonging to a former chantry in Newbold was granted in 1564, to William Grice and Anthony Foster.<sup>20</sup>

Allice Elizabeth Ward Boughton-*CHARITIES* Leigh, by will dated 11 May 1923 bequeathed £100 to the vicar and churchwardens of Newbold-on-Avon, the income to be applied in the purchase of coals to be distributed each

Christmastide among the deserving poor of this parish. The annual income of the charity amounts to £3 10s. approximately.

Richard Fostered by will dated 10 August 1508 gave his house and land at Frankton to the parishes of Rugby and Newbold-on-Avon, the yearly rent to be divided equally between them; that portion of rent that the parish of Rugby should receive to remain to the maintenance of so much of the Rugby Bridge as they were bound to repair; and that portion that the parish of Newbold-on-Avon should receive to remain to the maintenance of the Long Bridge, betwixt Long Lawford and Newbold. The charity is regulated by schemes of the Charity Commissioners dated 24 March 1903 and 19 December 1933. The schemes appoint trustees to administer the charity and direct the application of the income of the charity. The annual income of the Newbold-upon-Avon branch of the charity amounts to £68 approximately.

George Millington. It is recorded that in 1734 he gave 5s. annually on Good Friday to be distributed in the parish church of Newbold at the discretion of the minister and churchwardens among such poor of the parish as usually attend divine service and should be there that day. The charity is now regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 7 April 1891 which appoints a body of trustees and directs that the annual income shall be applied for the benefit of deserving and necessitous persons of this parish.

John Pearson, by will dated 27 January 1866 bequeathed to the vicar and churchwardens £200, to lay out the interest in the purchase of bread, coals, or blankets, to be distributed annually on 24 December among the deserving and poor inhabitants of the parish. The annual income of the charity amounts to £5 6s. 8d.

Mary Elizabeth Norman, by will dated 16 December 1924 bequeathed £250, the income to be applied in keeping in thorough repair the graves of the Norman family in the churchyard of Newbold and, subject thereto, in keeping in repair the said churchyard.

Thomas Goodman Norman by will dated 12 May 1926 bequeathed £250, the income to be applied in like manner.

Sir Edward Boughton by an indenture dated 18 September 1716 conveyed a piece of ground in Rugby upon trust that the yearly rents and profits should be paid to the poor of the town of Long Lawford.

Poors' Plot. The earliest account respecting the land belonging to this charity is contained in a lease dated 25 March 1719, by which John Bradford, overseer of the poor of the liberties of Long Lawford, for himself and for the other inhabitants and for his successors, overseers of the poor there, demised to Thomas Bagshawe that parcel of inclosed ground commonly called the Poors' Plot in Long Lawford, containing 20 acres or thereabouts, to hold for 21 years at the rent of £10 5s. per annum to the overseer of the poor of the liberties of Long Lawford.

William Smith. This parish participates in this charity to the amount of 4s. each year, which, in accordance with the terms of the bequest, is required to be distributed in bread to the poorest people of the parish. For particulars of the charity see under parish of Bilton.

James Croft, by will dated 30 June 1830 gave to the minister and parish officers of Long Lawford £400, to

<sup>12</sup> *Warw. Co. Records*, iii, 162.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.* 274.

<sup>14</sup> Tilley and Walters, *Church Bells of*

*Warw.*, 193-4.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*; Anet. D. (P.R.O.), D. 2216.

<sup>16</sup> *Tax. Eccl. (Rec. Com.)*, 241.

<sup>17</sup> Dugd. 96.

<sup>18</sup> Feet of F. Div. Cos. East. 30 Hen. VIII.

<sup>19</sup> Dugd. 96.

<sup>20</sup> Pat. R. 6 Eliz. pt. 4.

apply yearly £10, part of the interest, in educating 10 children of the most deserving poor of Long Lawford in some school at Long Lawford, and to distribute the remainder of the interest on New Year's Day in clothing and fuel amongst the most deserving industrious poor of Long Lawford.

The above-mentioned charities are regulated by schemes of the Charity Commissioners dated 8 March 1904 and 30 June 1908 under the title of the United Charities of Sir Edward Boughton and others. The schemes appoint a body of trustees and contain directions for the application of the income of the charities, which amounts to £325.

Miss Louisa Hartlet Townsend's Reading Rooms. By an indenture dated 15 February 1886 the building and premises in Long Lawford used as three reading-rooms and a cottage adjoining were settled upon trust to be used as reading-rooms and coffee-house by and for the inhabitants of the hamlet of Long Lawford and for a residence for the manager or managers of the reading-rooms and coffee-house. The deed provides that the reading-rooms be for ever hereafter called 'Miss Louisa Hartlet Townsend's Reading Rooms' and be under the sole control and management of the trustees or of a committee or manager to be appointed by the trustees.

## NEWNHAM REGIS

Acreeage: 1,471.

Population: 1911, 128; 1921, 117; 1931, 109.

Newnham Regis is a parish, small both in area and population,  $\frac{3}{4}$  miles north-west of Rugby. It is bounded on the south by the Avon, on the west by the Fosse Way, and for a short distance in the north-east corner it is crossed by the Oxford Canal. A few small streams rise in the northern part and flow to the Avon, and the ground level varies from about 250 to about 300 ft. above sea-level. There is some woodland, including the large All Oaks (a corruption of Hall Oaks) Wood.<sup>1</sup> Part of the northern boundary is formed by a minor road from Brinklow to Cathiron, and parallel to this another by-road crosses the centre of the parish, throwing off a branch to the very small village, where it divides, one lane going to Bretford and one to the bridge over the Avon and Church Lawford.

The decline of the village took place in the late 16th century, and is attributed by Dugdale to the inclosures carried out by the then lord of the manor, Sir William Leigh (fl. 1564-97).<sup>2</sup> It was at this time, however, that the mineral springs in the east of the parish became of some eminence, John Gifford of Chillington (Staffs.), a recusant, being allowed to resort there for his health for 14 days in 1581, and again for an unlimited time in 1586.3 In 1587 Dr. Walter Bayley, physician to the Queen, published *A Brief Discours of certain Bathes . . . neere . . . Newnham Regis*.<sup>4</sup> Camden<sup>5</sup> describes them as 'three springs . . . whose water, of a milky colour and taste is accounted good against the stone. It certainly is extremely diuretic, heals and closes up wounds presently, taken with salt purges, with sugar binds.' As there is no reference to these springs in Dugdale, their vogue seems to have been short, though there is a reference to 'the famous spring of medicinal water, commonly called the Bathe well' as late as 1699.<sup>6</sup>

As late as 1672 there were enough Dissenters for the house of Abraham Worth at Newnham Regis to be licensed for Presbyterian worship,<sup>7</sup> but already in 1653 and 1666 it was a decaying place with 'few or no poor', and was ordered to contribute 12d. weekly to the support of the poor of Rugby.<sup>8</sup>

In 1710 the Newnham Regis estate of the Dukes of Montagu comprised 20 properties worth £749 18s. 8d., with £881 1s. of woodland; there were then 1,072 acres of pasture and 196 of river and upland meadow,

as against only 83 arable.<sup>9</sup> Another survey, undated but circa 1717, shows 19 tenants of 1,363 acres, valued at £837 1s. 4d.; there was also woodland 43 acres in extent, not valued, and 10 acres of 'waste', including fishponds and roads.<sup>10</sup>

Hall Farm is a plain square red-brick building of two stories and attic with a tiled mansard roof, built about the middle of the 18th century, probably on the site of the demolished Hall, of which no trace remains except the 16th-century dovecot, a little east of the farmhouse. The dovecot is unusually large, with a steep-pitched tiled roof, and consists of a rectangular building, two stories high, divided by a thick wall into two apartments, each 19 ft. square internally. It is built of squared and coursed limestone with red sandstone dressings and has buttresses at the angles of the east wall. There is a three-light square-headed mullioned window in each of the gables, two modern windows in the east wall, and on the north two large modern doorways to admit carts. All the walls, on both floors, are lined with nests built of brick, each tier being separated by a narrow course of stone. On the ground floor the nests have been blocked with modern brickwork.

NEWNHAM REGIS or KING'S MANOR NEWNHAM is not mentioned in Domesday Book, unless the hide held by Ansegis of Geoffrey de Wirce in Newnham Padox includes this Newnham also.<sup>11</sup> It must have been before the Conquest that the place was part of the king's property, as its name and popular belief in 1275 asserted that it had been,<sup>12</sup> for between 1123 and 1129, when Geoffrey de Clinton granted it to his newly founded priory of Kenilworth he was holding the manor of Hugh son of Richard as a fee of Roger, Earl of Warwick, who agreed to forego all secular services.<sup>13</sup> The tradition of royal overlordship, however, persisted as late as 1285, when it was alleged to have belonged to Richard I.<sup>14</sup>

The priory lands were in 1199 increased by a virgate granted by Isaac son of Richard.<sup>15</sup> The prior had court leet, assize of bread and ale, and other manorial privileges in 1285;<sup>16</sup> and in 1291 the estate included 4 plough-lands worth £6, a mill worth £1 13s. 4d., rents, &c., producing £3 12s. 9d., and stock valued at £2.<sup>17</sup> In 1525 the monastic property was leased for 51 years by William Wall, the abbot, to George Dawes and

<sup>1</sup> *Place-Names of Warwick*. (Engl. Place-Name Soc.), 117. <sup>2</sup> Dugd. 101.

<sup>3</sup> *Acts of P.C.* 1581-2, p. 111; 1580-7, p. 19.

<sup>4</sup> *Dict. Nat. Hist.* i, 1305.

<sup>5</sup> *Britannia* (ed. Gough, 1806), ii, 444.

<sup>6</sup> *Place-Names of Warwick*, 117.

<sup>7</sup> *Cal. S. P. Dom.*, 1672, p. 379.

<sup>8</sup> *Warw. Co. Rec.* iii, 153; v, 28.

<sup>9</sup> *Bucclough-Queensberry MSS.*, Northants. Rec. Soc.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.* (Vol. of Maps of Lord John Scott's Warw. Estate, 3117).

<sup>11</sup> See *V.C.H. Warw.* i, 337 note.

<sup>12</sup> *Rot. Hund.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 225.

<sup>13</sup> *Cal. Chart. R.* iii, 275-7; Harl. MS.

2650, fol. 11 v, 15.

<sup>14</sup> *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 779.

<sup>15</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xi), 44.

<sup>16</sup> *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 785.

<sup>17</sup> *Tax. Ecol.* (Rec. Com.), 254.

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

Katherine his wife, for £17 2s. yearly for the site of the manor, the demesnes, the pasture called Cathiron, four closes and crofts, 60s. for the 'Mylehowse' (i.e. mill house) and mill, the Holme and fishing rights, and £4 for the grain tithes.<sup>18</sup> The total value, including the rectory (£4), was in 1535 £47 1s.<sup>19</sup> which had decreased to £39 5s. 11d. for the year ending Michaelmas 1547.<sup>20</sup> The manor was retained by the Crown till 1553, when it was granted to John, Duke of Northumberland, for 58s. 7d. yearly;<sup>21</sup> and on his attainder to Sir Rowland Hill, William Hill his brother, and Thomas Leigh, of London.<sup>22</sup> It then included a coney warren besides the appurtenances leased to Dawes in 1525. Leigh, who became a knight and Lord Mayor of London in 1558, obtained sole possession and settled it on his younger son William.<sup>23</sup> The latter dealt with it in 1597,<sup>24</sup> and Sir Francis Leigh, William's son, who died in 1625, settled the manor on his eldest son Francis at his marriage (1617) with Dame Audrey Anderson, daughter and coheir of Lord Boteler of Brantfield.<sup>25</sup> The younger Francis was raised to the peerage as Baron Dunsmore (later Earl of Chichester); he was a keen royalist and died in 1653. His earldom passed by special remainder through his daughter Elizabeth to her husband Thomas Wriothesley, Earl of Southampton.<sup>26</sup> Their daughter Elizabeth married Ralph, 1st Duke of Montagu, whose son John was dealing with this manor in 1716.<sup>27</sup> By the marriage (1767) of Henry, Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry, to Elizabeth, daughter of George, Duke of Montagu,<sup>28</sup> the manor passed to the Buccleuch dukedom, Charles William, Henry's son, being vouchee in a recovery of 1814.<sup>29</sup> Lord John Scott, brother of the 5th duke, held the lordship in 1850,<sup>30</sup> and the duke was lord of the manor and sole landowner in 1900.<sup>31</sup>

The church which stood about a **CHURCH** quarter of a mile west of the village was still in use in 1730, when Dr. Thomas wrote:<sup>32</sup> 'The seats are very handsome; on the walls of the Church are painted in fresco the four Evangelists in full proportion, on the northside wall of the Chancel, the offerings of the wise men, and on the south wall, the taking down of our Saviour from the Cross.' It was, however, with the exception of the tower, entirely demolished about the middle of the 18th century. The tower now stands in the rick-yard of Hall Farm, the ground floor being used as a chicken house. It is built of roughly coursed limestone rubble with red sandstone

dressings and rises in four stages, diminished at each stage by weathered offsets. The upper stage has been rebuilt, and the walls, especially at the angles, repaired with red brickwork. All the floors are missing, but it has a modern roof covered with slates. There are two-light square-headed windows to the third and fourth stages on each face and narrow lights to the second stage on the north and south, that on the north being round-headed. The tower arch has been rebuilt with a round head and above it there is the line of a steep-pitched nave roof. It is difficult to assign a date to this tower, the square-headed mullioned windows appear to be insertions, but the narrow round-headed window, which has a widely splayed recess with a round-headed rear-arch has the appearance of late-12th-century work. Within the site of the nave there is an elaborate 19th-century brass, in the character of the 17th century, placed there in 1852 to mark the spot where Lady Audrey, Countess of Chichester, was reburied with other members of the family after a clearance of the site. It has an inscription copied from the one on her lead coffin. This inscription, together with one other, is now lying in one of the adjacent farm sheds, they read as follows: Incised inscription on lead: 'Here is enclosed the body of Mrs. Audrey Leigh, eldest daughter of Francis, Lord Dunsmore, who died 28th January 1640.' Cast lead inscription: 'Here lieth ye body of ye Lady Audrey, Countess of Chichester, wife to Francis, Earl of Chichester Lord Dunsmore, the best of women she changed this life for a better the 16 day of September 1652.'

In the farm-house garden there is a font, pillar piscina, and stoop. The font is octagonal with plain sides and a square base, splayed at the angles; the stem is missing. The piscina has a circular shaft with moulded capital and base on a half-octagonal pedestal, shaped to fit into an angle. The stoop has a square rim with a circular bowl splayed below to an octagon.

The church was probably given to **ADFOWSON** Kenilworth Priory along with the manor by Geoffrey de Clinton, being appropriated to the priory by Bishop William (1215-24) 'for the support of the poor and of hospitality'.<sup>33</sup> In 1291 it was valued at £5.<sup>34</sup> The vicarage was worth £5 in 1535.<sup>35</sup> The rectory and advowson descended with the manor, an arrangement that lasted after the union of the living with that of Church Lawford in 1595.<sup>36</sup>

## OFFCHURCH

Acreeage: 2,286.

Population: 1911, 279; 1921, 306; 1931, 323.

Offchurch is a parish and village 3 miles east of Leamington Spa. On the north and west it is bounded by the river Leam, and on the south by a small stream running close to the Warwick branch of the Oxford Canal and joining the Leam near Quintonhill; this was called the Quensenbrok in 1411.<sup>1</sup> The Fosse Way

crosses the parish diagonally from south-west to north-east, being a metalled road throughout its limits though not a main road, and another ancient highway, the Welsh Road, crosses the Fosse Way more or less at right angles in the centre of the parish and runs through the village, which is connected by other by-roads with Hunningham, Long Itchington, and Radford Semele. There is a little woodland, and the park of Offchurch

<sup>18</sup> *Mon. Estates in Warwick*. (Dugd. Soc. ii), 48.

<sup>19</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 62 5.

<sup>20</sup> *Mon. Estates in Warwick*, 48.

<sup>21</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1553, pp. 179-80.

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid.* 1553-4, p. 144.

<sup>23</sup> Dugd. 101.

<sup>24</sup> Feet of F. Div. Cos. Trin. 39 Eliz. Recov. R. Trin. 39 Eliz. ro. 12.

<sup>25</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccclxxii, 170.

<sup>26</sup> Dugd. 102.

<sup>27</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Trin. 2 Geo. I.

<sup>28</sup> G. E. C. *Compl. Peerage* (2nd ed.), ii, 309.

<sup>29</sup> Recov. R. East. 54 Geo. III, ro. 395.

<sup>30</sup> White, *Directory Warwick*, 664.

<sup>31</sup> Kelly, *Directory Warwick*.

<sup>32</sup> Dugd. 102.

<sup>33</sup> Harl. MS. 3650, fol. 38 v.

<sup>34</sup> *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 241.

<sup>35</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 59.

<sup>36</sup> Dugd. 102; Buccleuch-Queensberry

MISS, Northants. Rec. Soc.

<sup>1</sup> Exch. K.R. Misc. Bks. 21, fol. 215. The bounds are set out in detail on fol. 220 v., beginning at 'Steretshadden', apparently the south-east angle of the parish; the landmarks along the east side are not identifiable till the Leam is reached; on the south it follows the stream from Quensen to 'Fossebrige', and 'Walmerbrige', probably where the Welsh Road crosses the stream and canal.

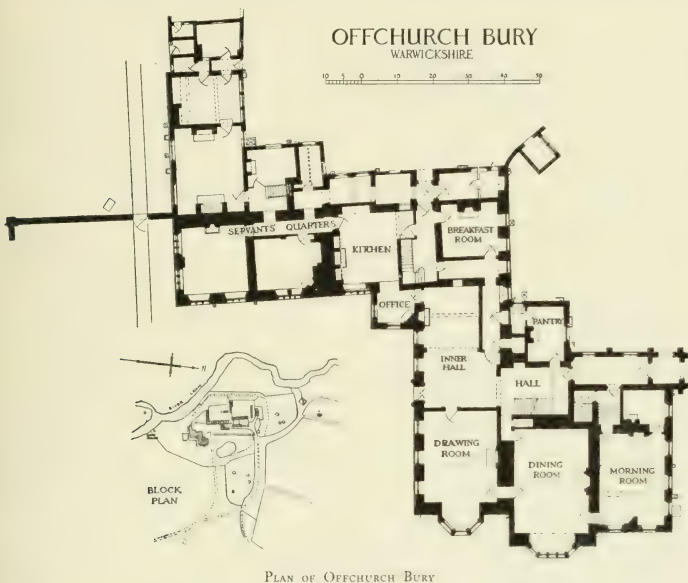


Bury, once a seat of the Knightleys and later of the Earls of Aylesford, occupies a large loop in the river Leam in the west. The ground rises from 175 ft. above sea level near the river to 346 ft. on the eastern edge of the parish. The L.M.S. railway from Rugby to Leamington crosses the parish but there is no station.

Dugdale<sup>2</sup> quotes a tradition that 'this hath been a town of no small note in the Saxons time', considering the manorial name 'Bury', more common in the Home Counties in this sense, to signify a fortified place and

Grand Jury at the next assizes.<sup>6</sup> In 1654 the 'mounds' in the churchyard were in decay, and were ordered to be repaired by all parishioners able to pay levies, though they conceived themselves not bound thereto.<sup>7</sup> In 1664 the Lord Chancellor was petitioned to allow a brief to be issued on behalf of Edward Arnold of Offchurch, who had within a year suffered two serious fires at his premises, the total damage being £255.<sup>8</sup>

The village, mostly lying at the foot of a hill to the north-east of the church, contains a few timber-framed



PLAN OF OFFCHURCH BURY

linking the name of the village with King Offa. Camden<sup>3</sup> went further and indulged in a romance about Offa's son Fremund, 'a man of great renown', being murdered and 'buried at his Father's Palace, now called Offchurch'. It is not, however, mentioned at all in Domesday Book, or earlier, and at no time since accurate records of population were kept has it been of more than average size.<sup>4</sup> Traces of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery were found about 1875 south of the church close to the road to Long Itchington.<sup>5</sup>

Offchurch bridge, carrying the Welsh Road over the Leam, was in 1661 a horse bridge of stone and wood construction and in need of repair; two years later the inhabitants of Offchurch and Cubbington were presented at Quarter Sessions about this, and the cost of rebuilding it entirely in stone was to be referred to the

cottages, the majority of which have modern additions.

Offchurch Bury, the seat of Henry Leslie Johnson, stands near the north-east corner of its extensive park which occupies a bend of the River Leam. The house is built of stone, the earlier part, now servants' quarters, dating from the time of Henry VIII and retaining many of the original roof timbers. The east front of this wing retains its large stone mullioned and transomed windows and small gables. Modern alterations have obscured the development of the northern and eastern portions of the house, most of which was probably built in the 17th century, though the porch and lobby on the north, with a four-centred arch to the doorway, may be earlier. The walls of the dining-room are of exceptional thickness. In this and the drawing-room the bay windows

<sup>2</sup> Dugd. 361.

<sup>3</sup> Camden, *Britannia* (ed. Gough), ii, 443.

<sup>4</sup> In 1730 there were about 28 houses, 8 of which kept teams.

<sup>5</sup> *Journal of Brit. Arch. Assoc.* xxxii,

466.

<sup>6</sup> *Warwick Q. Soc. Q. Bk.* iv, 137, 248.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.* iii, 205.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.* iv, 293.

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

were added, replacing sash windows, early in the 19th century.<sup>9</sup> A few of the rooms have 17th-century oak panelling, and in the drawing-room there is a fine carved mantelpiece in the style of the late 18th century.

There is a good range of 18th-century stabling, with a clock-tower containing a contemporary clock. A brick dovecote of the same period, with pepperpot roof, stands at the north end of the North Walk. Uncertain traces of a possible moat can be seen in the neighbourhood of the house.

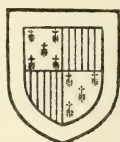
**OFFCHURCH** is not mentioned by name in Leofric's foundation charter of Coventry priory, or in Domesday Book, but the wording of the confirmation of the charter by Henry III in 1267<sup>10</sup> implies that the place was in possession of this priory from its foundation. In 1236 John son of William held one tenth of a knight's fee of the prior,<sup>11</sup> in whose 'barony' Offchurch and Ufton were returned in 1316.<sup>12</sup> Free warren was granted in 1257,<sup>13</sup> and in 1279 the prior held 3 carucates in demesne, 5½ virgates held by 8 free tenants, and 14½ virgates let out to 28 tenants at will, with 3 water-mills, also court leet, gallops, and assize of bread and ale.<sup>14</sup> The total revenue of the monastic estate in 1291, including rents, livestock, and perquisites of court was £26 12s. 0½d.<sup>15</sup> One of the mills was that quitclaimed to the priory by Hugh, rector of Offchurch, with 2 acres of land and common of fishery in the Leam from Quensen Bridge to Guy's Cliff, in exchange for 2 acres called Milneacre, a croft, and half a virgate, except the message thereto belonging, in 1252.<sup>16</sup> Small alienations of messuages and land were made to the priory at various dates between 1223 and 1349,<sup>17</sup> and the total value of the Coventry estates in 1535 was £38 18s. 10d., including £13 6s. 8d. for the rent of the manor.<sup>18</sup> For some time before the Dissolution the manor and its appurtenances were leased by the priory; to Richard Palmer and Margery his wife before 1504,<sup>19</sup> and to various members of the Alcock family, who were in possession in 1542 when the capital message of Offchurch was granted to Sir Edmund Knightley and Lady Ursula his wife, in tail male, with contingent remainder to his brother Sir Valentine, or to the right heirs of his mother.<sup>20</sup> At this date the premises included a chapel and burial-ground, a stone dovecote, the lofty hall of 'le Yate Howse Volte Porte', the buildings lying between the hall and the 'Frenche Walle', and several water from 'le vycars takkyng' beside 'le Conyngre' as far as Radford mere. Sir Edmund died within a year of this grant<sup>21</sup> but his widow seems to have had a life tenure,<sup>22</sup> and in 1561-2 a fresh grant, in accordance with the terms of the one of 1542, was made to Sir Valentine Knightley.<sup>23</sup> He bequeathed Offchurch to his fourth son Edward,<sup>24</sup> who was dealing with the manor in 1585<sup>25</sup> and 1604.<sup>26</sup>

The Offchurch branch of the Knightley family remained Roman Catholics, and in 1626 the manor was taken into Crown hands and leased for 21 years to John Pecke.<sup>27</sup> The direct male line died out with Sir John Knightley, Edward's great-grandson, who died in 1688, having quarrelled with his own kin and bequeathed the manor to John Wightwick, his wife's grandson by her first husband, on condition that he took the surname Knightley.<sup>28</sup> The Wightwick Knightleys held the manor till the middle of the 19th century;<sup>29</sup> Jane, only daughter and heir of John Wightwick Knightley married Heneage, Lord Guernsey, afterwards 6th Earl of Aylesford, in 1846,<sup>30</sup> and in 1850 he was lord of the manor.<sup>31</sup> His widow held the lordship in 1900<sup>32</sup> and was still living at Offchurch Bury in 1910.<sup>33</sup>

Two of the three Offchurch mills mentioned in 1279 can be traced to the 16th and 17th centuries. One, known as Offchurch Mill, formerly held by William Channonhouse, was in 1546-7 in the tenure of Edward Sadler of Fillongley, to whom the priory had granted a 41-year lease in 1536 for 66s. 8d., and one, Quins' Mill (on the Quensen brook), had been let in 1530 for 31 years at 28s. 4d. to Henry Philipps, and was in 1547 in the hands of Edward Philipps, his assignee.<sup>34</sup> These two water-mills are mentioned in 1631.<sup>35</sup>

The parish church of **ST. GREGORY CHURCH** stands on the crest of the hill above the village. It consists of chancel with north vestry, nave with south porch, and west tower, and is built of the local red sandstone.

The nave dates from the early part of the 12th century; owing to the failure of the foundations the chancel arch, of which the piers are badly out of the perpendicular, collapsed and had to be reconstructed, apparently in the 14th century, with the addition of buttresses on the south and, probably, north. The chancel seems to have been partly rebuilt at the same time and perhaps lengthened, and a south porch erected. In the 15th century the tower was erected. Late in the 16th century the roof of the nave was reconstructed at a lower pitch, and it may have been at this time that the clumsy and very massive buttress on the north side, overlapping the north door, was built.<sup>36</sup> In the 18th century, square-headed two-light windows were cut in the side walls of the nave, immediately under the eaves, probably to light galleries. In 1866 the chancel was almost entirely rebuilt,<sup>37</sup> in the course of which operation there were found in the wall parts of a stone coffin (now



KNIGHTLEY. Quarterly ermine and paly or and gules a border azure.

<sup>9</sup> Add. MS. 29264, fol. 164. When that of the drawing-room was built several skulls were dug up.

<sup>10</sup> Cal. Chart. R. ii, 70.

<sup>11</sup> Bk. of Fees, 583.

<sup>12</sup> Feud. Aids, v, 177.

<sup>13</sup> Dugd. (161), K.R. Misc. Bks. 15, fol. 10. <sup>14</sup> Tax. Eccl. (Rec. Com.), 253.

<sup>15</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xi), 704.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid. 333; Cal. Pat. 1327-30, p. 502; <sup>17</sup> Ibid. 1330-4, p. 169; <sup>18</sup> Ibid. 1343-5, p. 558; <sup>19</sup> Ibid. 1348-50, p. 326.

<sup>20</sup> Valor Eccl. (Rec. Com.), iii, 49-50.

<sup>21</sup> Early Chan. Proc. bble. 344, no. 45.

<sup>22</sup> L. and P. Hen. VIII, xvii, 285(f). In 1537 George Alysbery had written to

Cromwell asking him 'to have me in remembrance to the king about the manor of Offchurch' (ibid. xii(2), 437).

<sup>23</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), lxviii, 27; <sup>24</sup> lxx, 23. <sup>25</sup> Feet of F. Warw. East. 3 Eliz.

<sup>26</sup> Pat. 4 Eliz. pt. 4.

<sup>27</sup> J.C.H. Northants. Families, 200, where the pedigree of the Offchurch branch of the Knightleys is dealt with in detail.

<sup>28</sup> Feet of F. Warw. East. 27 Eliz.; <sup>29</sup> Recov. R. East. 27 Eliz., ro. 1.

<sup>30</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 2 Jas. I.

<sup>31</sup> Pat. 2 Chas. I, pt. 11.

<sup>32</sup> Dugd. 361.

<sup>33</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Hil. 18 Geo. II; <sup>34</sup> Recov. R. Hil. 18 Geo. II, ro. 305; <sup>35</sup> ibid.

Hil. 30 Geo. III, ro. 227; <sup>36</sup> ibid. East. 7 Geo. IV, ro. 258.

<sup>37</sup> G. E. C. Comp. Peerage (2nd ed.), i, 366. <sup>38</sup> White, Directory Warw. 642.

<sup>39</sup> Kelly, Directory Warw.

<sup>40</sup> G. E. C. Comp. Peerage (2nd ed.), i, 366.

<sup>41</sup> Mon. Baillif's Accts. (Dugd. Soc. ii), 62.

<sup>42</sup> Recov. R. East. 7 Chas. I, ro. 151.

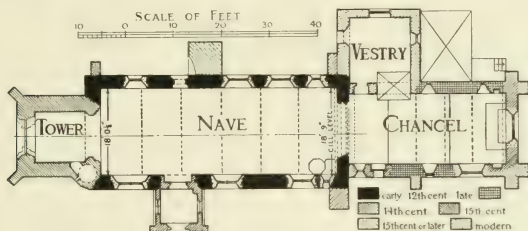
<sup>43</sup> A group of over-large buttresses found in the neighbourhood of Warwick belongs to the late 15th century, to which date this may also belong in the opinion of Mr. P. B. Chatwin.

<sup>44</sup> Journal of Brit. Arch. Assoc. xxxii, 466.

outside the north wall of the nave) and the heads of two<sup>38</sup> small round-headed windows (described below), which were set in the north and south walls when rebuilt. A combined vestry and organ-chamber was built on the north of the chancel in 1898.

In the chancel the east window, of three cinquefoiled lights with geometrical tracery, is modern, as is the small trefoil opening in the gable above it. In the north wall are two deeply splayed 12th-century lights; their heads are each cut from a single block of stone and externally are surrounded by in the one case a single and in the other a double row of cable moulding.<sup>39</sup> In

small single light. At some uncertain period the north wall evidently showed signs of slipping; the north door was blocked and plastered over, and a huge buttress was set up, overlapping its east jamb. In 1833 the plaster was removed and part of the buttress cut back<sup>41</sup> to show this fine early-12th-century doorway. It has a semicircular head of two orders, the first square and the second with an edge roll, and above this is a band of varied diaper carving. The shafts and bases have been renewed, but the cushion capitals, with scrolls cut at the corners, and the plain splayed abaci are original; on the face of the stones beside the capitals is more



PLAN OF OFFCHURCH CHURCH

the south wall is a third window, smaller and with the cable replaced by a conventionalized serpent.<sup>40</sup> West of the two windows on the north is a modern archway containing the organ and the entrance to the vestry. East of the window in the south wall is a modern two-light window, and west of it a narrow priest's door with hollow-chamfered two-centred head and hood-mould ending in moulded stops. Between this and the chancel arch is a low side window of a single rectangular light with a shouldered head, in a deeply chamfered recess; one jamb has a bolt-hole, presumably for a shutter. Externally the buttresses at the angles and in the middle of the south wall are modern; early-19th-century views show clumsy semi-pyramidal buttresses or ramps, one at the south-east angle and the other west of the priest's door, adjoining the nave buttress; they were probably set up in the 18th century. Internally there are bad cracks in the masonry at the eastern angles, particularly on the north. Close to this angle, in the north wall, is a square aumbry; opposite to it is a piscina with round bowl under a chamfered two-centred head.

As already stated, the imposts of the chancel arch are much out of the vertical, the southern by more than 9 inches. They are of two square orders with detached angle-shafts, which have plain cushion capitals and abaci with diaper ornamentation; the bases resemble inverted cushion capitals. The flat pointed arch, rebuilt in the 14th century, has two wave-moulded orders.

In the nave the windows are all modern: in the north wall those at the east and west are single lights and between them are two two-light windows; in the south wall are three, each of two lights with a cinquefoil in the head, and at the extreme east, at a higher level, a

diapering. Internally the north doorway is a much narrower plain round-headed arch, suggestive in proportions and general appearance of pre-Conquest work.

The 14th-century south door has a two-centred head with two moulded orders, the inner continuous, while the outer falls on detached pillars with capitals and bases of which the stonework has been renewed. The porch, of the late 14th century, has a small modern two-light window in each side wall. The doorway has a segmental pointed head of three moulded orders, continued on the jambs, where the two outer are provided with capitals and bases; there is a hood-mould. The roof of the porch appears to have collapsed at some time and the whole gable, including the arch of the doorway, to have been reconstructed. At each side of the entrance is a low buttress with a chamfered offset, above which, at the springing level of the door arch, are remains of the moulded and panelled bases of shafts, presumably once carrying pinnacles. The door into the church is massive, with moulded ribs, and is ancient but of uncertain date.

On either side of the porch at roof level in the south wall of the nave can be seen one of the blocked 18th-century windows mentioned above, and another is visible in the north wall. The low-pitched trussed roof apparently dates from the late 16th century, one of the cross-beams bearing a date said to be 1592.<sup>42</sup>

The 15th-century tower opens to the nave by a lofty two-centred arch of two chamfered orders, which are carried down the jambs but interrupted at the springing of the arch by moulded quasi-capitals. The tower<sup>43</sup>

<sup>38</sup> Two according to the above account; there is no mention of the third.

<sup>39</sup> Two ornaments of concentric circles, cut on either side of the head of the latter are apparently modern, and it is possible

that the whole was made in 1866 to match the other.

<sup>40</sup> The drawing in the *Journal* is much too realistic.

<sup>41</sup> R. Hackett's *Guide to the church*

(1881).

<sup>42</sup> Ibid.

<sup>43</sup> A number of pittings on the stones of the south face may be due to bullets and are, of course, locally attributed to Cromwell's soldiers.

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

has western angle buttresses rising, with three offsets, to the level of the belfry. At the south-east angle the buttress is combined with the stair-vice, which is entered by an inner doorway with a four-centred head and is lit by three slits on the south. On the west face is a doorway with four-centred arch, double-chamfered, and above it is a modern three-light window, over which is a clock-face, dated 1837.<sup>43a</sup> The belfry windows are of two lights with a quatrefoil above, in a two-centred head, and appear to be original. The battlements of the parapet have a simple moulding which is continuous round the merlons.

The font is modern. There is a good early-18th-century pulpit of oak, inlaid and having a carved cornice.

In the chancel are a number of marble tablets, dating from the end of the 17th century onwards, to members of the Knightley family. Built into the north wall of the nave, outside, are fragments of a 14th-century coffin-slab.

There are four bells:<sup>44</sup> the first and third by Robert Handley of Gloucester (last quarter of the 15th century) inscribed respectively—

SANCTE MICHAEL ORA PRO NOBIS, and  
VIRGINIS EGREGIE VOCOR CAMPANA MARIE.

The second is by Newcombe of Leicester, 1605; and the fourth by Mathew Bagley, 1681.

The communion plate includes an Elizabethan cup of 1576 and a paten of 1699.

The registers<sup>45</sup> of baptisms begin in 1669 but are irregular until 1682, after which date burials are entered, but the record of marriages runs only from 1694.

The church was appropriated to *ADVOWSON* Coventry Priory in 1260,<sup>46</sup> and was worth £7 in 1291.<sup>47</sup> The vicarage was valued at £7 7s. 6d., with 8s. for procurations and

synodals, in 1535,<sup>48</sup> at which time the great tithes were farmed for £6 13s. 4d.<sup>49</sup> The tithes of the rectory had been leased by the prior before 1538 for 60 years to Thomas Gardener of Coventry, which lease having been acquired by Henry Porter of Fletchamstead, was renewed to him as a lease of 21 years in the following year.<sup>50</sup> The rectory itself was granted to John Hales of Coventry in 1545,<sup>51</sup> who bequeathed it to his brother Bartholomew.<sup>52</sup> The latter passed it, with the advowson, to Thomas Morgan in 1582,<sup>53</sup> who settled it on his wife Mary (Saunders) for her life, and then to his brother Anthony, the latter's daughter Bridget, who married Anthony Morgan, and her male heirs.<sup>54</sup> Her son Thomas Morgan was dealing with the rectory and advowson in 1624.<sup>55</sup> By 1666 the advowson was in the hands of the Knightleys,<sup>56</sup> and it descended with the manor till the present century, the trustees of the Dowager Countess of Aylesford being patrons in 1915.<sup>57</sup> The patronage is now held by the provost and chapter of Coventry.<sup>58</sup>

John Haddon by will dated 21 *CHARITIES* August 1867 bequeathed £500 to the vicar and churchwardens of Offchurch, the income to be applied for the benefit of the poor of the parish. The annual income of the charity amounts to £12 19s. 4d.

William Haddon by will dated 31 March 1877 gave £200 to the churchwardens and overseers of the parish, the income to be distributed on St. Thomas's Day among the aged or infirm poor of the parish. The annual income of the Charity amounts to £4 11s.

Jane Wightwick, Dowager Countess of Aylesford, by will dated 19 October 1906 bequeathed £200, the interest to be applied in support of the dispensary in the village of Offchurch. Trustees of the charity are appointed pursuant to a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 17 February 1914. The annual income of the charity amounts to £7 10s. 4d.

## RADBOURN

Acreage	{	Upper Radbourn, 647.
		Lower Radbourn, 526.
Population	{	Upper Radbourn: 1911, 19; 1921,
		15; 1931, 11.
		Lower Radbourn: 1911, 10; 1921,
		12; 1931, 3.

The old parish of Radbourn was depopulated during the 15th century and its church allowed to fall into ruin.<sup>1</sup> It was divided into Upper and Lower Radbourn, which were regarded as separate extra-parochial districts, lying, respectively, to the north and south of a small stream, close to the right bank of which is the site of the old church. It lies to the east of Ladbroke, with which it was historically closely connected. A charter of King Ethelred,<sup>2</sup> given in 998, renews the boundaries of Ladbroke and Radbourn, but it does not seem possible to relate them to the map; 'Wylman ford', at which point they start and end, was on the borders of Radbourn and Wormleighton;

'Cocgebyll', which also occurs in the same charter as one of the bounds of Southam, is found in 1253 as 'Cokesbylle', on the road running west from Priors Marston;<sup>3</sup> and the 'waetergefael' is presumably that which gave its name to Watergall, south-west of Lower Radbourn; but connecting those scattered links is more than difficult.

A barn called 'Radborne barn', near Napton, but probably on the borders of this parish, in 1625 was a place of resort for rogues and vagabonds, who plotted felonies and shared their spoils there. Orders were given for the constables of neighbouring parishes to send men secretly at night to arrest any rogues found there, and for the barn to be utterly destroyed.<sup>4</sup>

In 998 King Ethelred gave to the *MANORS* caldorman Leofwine 4½ *manias* in Ladbroke and Radbourn.<sup>5</sup> Leofwine was father of Leofric of Mercia, but the estate does not

<sup>43a</sup> When the clock was refaced in 1887 the date 1837 was found carved on the back: *ex inf.* the Rev. F. S. Sinker.

<sup>44</sup> Tilley and Walters, *Church Bells of Warwick*, 197.

<sup>45</sup> *Trans. Birm. Arch. Soc.* xix, 101.

<sup>46</sup> Dugd. 361 (Reg. Molend. m. 4).

<sup>47</sup> *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 241.

<sup>48</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 70.

<sup>49</sup> *Ibid.* 49.

<sup>50</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII.* xv, 557.

<sup>51</sup> *Ibid.* xx (1), 1335(19).

<sup>52</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), clxiii, 9; clxiv, 194.

<sup>53</sup> Feet of F. Warw. East. 24 Eliz.

<sup>54</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), clxxxi, 84.

<sup>55</sup> *Recov. R. Mich.* 22 Jas. I. r. 10 78.

<sup>56</sup> Dugd. 362.

<sup>57</sup> *Clergy List*.

<sup>58</sup> *Coventry Diocesan Calendar*.

<sup>1</sup> Dugd. 329; Rous, *Hist. Reg. Angl.* (ed. 1745), 122.

<sup>2</sup> *The Crawford Coll. of Early Charters* (ed. Napier and Stevenson), no. VIII.

<sup>3</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xi), 730.

<sup>4</sup> *Warw. Co. Rec.* i, 8.

<sup>5</sup> *The Crawford Coll. of Early Charters* (ed. Napier and Stevenson), no. VIII.







RADFORD SEMELL CHURCH, *c.* 1820

seem to have descended to him.<sup>6</sup> In 1086 the estates of Turchil included 1½ hides in Ladbroke and Radbourn, held of him by Almar.<sup>7</sup> The overlordship descended with the Earls of Warwick, *RADBOURN* being held of them as one-tenth knight's fee in 1235, 1242,<sup>8</sup> 1316,<sup>9</sup> and 1400.<sup>10</sup> It was held in fee by Turchil's descendants, the Ardernes, of whom William gave the church and a virgate of land to the nuns of Henwood Priory<sup>11</sup> before the end of the 12th century.<sup>12</sup> His son William gave, by permission of Thomas de Arderne, land and extensive pasturage to Combe Abbey<sup>13</sup> and was holding the one-tenth fee in 1235,<sup>14</sup> as was Thomas de Arderne in 1242,<sup>15</sup> and William (probably his brother)<sup>16</sup> in 1267;<sup>17</sup> in 1316 it was said to be held by William de Rodbourn.<sup>18</sup> This was an alias for William, son of William de Arderne,<sup>19</sup> whose descendant and namesake in 1369 conveyed the manor to John de Catesby,<sup>20</sup> to whom Hugh de Prestwode and Agnes his wife (probably heiress of this line of Ardernes) at the same time released their rights.<sup>21</sup> In 1412 Radbourn was one of the places in which free warren was granted to Emma, widow of John Catesby, and John, her son.<sup>22</sup> When William Catesby was attainted in 1485 for his support of Richard III his lands were forfeited, and in March 1488 Radbourn manor, with some 500 acres in that parish and in Priors Hardwick, was granted to Sir John Risley in tail male.<sup>23</sup> As he died early in 1512 without male issue<sup>24</sup> the manor reverted to the Crown and was restored to William Catesby's grandson William, who died in 1517, and was succeeded by his brother Richard, then aged 11.<sup>25</sup> In 1553 Richard's widow Dame Elizabeth had part of her jointure here.<sup>26</sup> William Catesby was dealing with the manor between 1573 and 1577,<sup>27</sup> as was Robert Catesby in 1600.<sup>28</sup> On Robert's attainder for his share in the Gunpowder Plot in 1605 his lands were forfeited, and Sir Roger Wilbraham seems to have acquired one moiety of the manor and advowson, of which he died seised in 1616.<sup>29</sup> In the previous year he had settled this, as the manor of *LOWER RADBOURN*, to the use of his second daughter Elizabeth, who was already married to her first cousin Thomas Wilbraham although she was only 12 at the time of her father's death.<sup>30</sup> Thomas and Elizabeth Wilbraham sold the moiety to William, Lord Spencer, in 1631.<sup>31</sup> With the Spencers it remained for some sixty years. In 1691 Robert (Spencer), Earl of Sunderland, conveyed a quarter of the manor and advowson to Robert North;<sup>32</sup> and in 1704 Charles, Earl of Sunderland, sold (the other

'moiety of a moiety' of the manor to Ralph Palmer,<sup>33</sup> who appears as lord in 1712, 1739, and 1748,<sup>34</sup> after which date it would seem to have been joined to the Palmer estate of Chapel Ascote in Hodnell (q.v.). The quarter acquired by Robert North was presumably the manor of which Francis (North), Earl of Guilford, was lord in 1784<sup>35</sup> and Col. North in 1850.<sup>36</sup>

The other moiety of the manor seems to have been *LITTLE RADBOURN*, which represented the lands held by Coventry Priory, leased in 1533 to Richard Catesby at 46s. 8d.,<sup>37</sup> and granted in 1564 to Clement Throckmorton,<sup>38</sup> who sold to William Catesby in 1573.<sup>39</sup> In 1601 the Catesby trustees sold to Sir Ranulph Crewe,<sup>40</sup> whose grandson John in 1650 sold to John Dryden the moiety of the manor of Radbourn.<sup>41</sup> Sir John Dryden and Lady Spencer owned the 'decayed towns of Over and Nether Radbourn' in 1651.<sup>42</sup> From the Drydens it passed early in the 18th century to Ralph Sneyd.<sup>43</sup> By 1733 Robert Pigott, senior and junior, were dealing with the manor,<sup>44</sup> and one of that name was 'one lord' of the manor in 1756<sup>45</sup> and 1770<sup>46</sup> and in 1772 conveyed a quarter of the manor and rectory to Samuel and Henry Cleaver,<sup>47</sup> who passed it to John Warren in 1775.<sup>48</sup> As already mentioned, the Abbey of Combe had a considerable estate in Radbourne, for which they had a grant of free warren in 1290.<sup>49</sup> In 1291 it was rated as 2 carucates, worth 20s., as well as 6s. 3d. in rents,<sup>50</sup> and additional small gifts were received from time to time.<sup>51</sup> In 1481 the monks leased *RADBOURN GRANGE* to William Catesby,<sup>52</sup> and it was still in the tenure of that family at the Dissolution and in 1556, when the 'manor, farm, and grange' of Radbourn was granted to Thomas Wilkes.<sup>53</sup> It then descended with the manor of Hodnell (q.v.), being divided after the death of Robert Wilkes in 1577 between his three sisters and their heirs.

The church of Radbourn was given, *ADVOWSON* as already mentioned, to Henwood Priory, but by 1417 the advowson had been acquired by the Catesbys and attached to the manor. In 1622 and 1625 Sir Ranulph Crewe and Thomas Wilbraham presented jointly,<sup>54</sup> and in 1645 Sir Ranulph alone,<sup>55</sup> as did John Dryden in 1676 and Lord North in 1693.<sup>56</sup> Presentations were made by Ralph Sneyd in 1713, Randolph Palmer in 1724, Robert Pigott in 1754, and Robert Ladbroke in 1800.<sup>57</sup> The rectory is now united with the benefice of Ladbroke and is in the gift of trustees.

<sup>6</sup> The statement (*ibid.* p. 113) that at the time of the Domesday Survey part of it was held by Leofric's former wife Godgifu is unfounded.

<sup>7</sup> *V.C.H. Warwick*, i, 320.

<sup>8</sup> *Bk. of Fees*, 507, 957.

<sup>9</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, 405.

<sup>10</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 2 Hen. IV, no. 58.

<sup>11</sup> *Dugd.* 329.

<sup>12</sup> *V.C.H. Warwick*, ii, 125.

<sup>13</sup> *Cott. MS. Vitell. A. I*, fols. 121-2.

<sup>14</sup> *Bk. of Fees*, 507.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.* 957.

<sup>16</sup> *Dugd.* 925.

<sup>17</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* i, 679.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.* v, 405.

<sup>19</sup> *Cott. MS. Vitell. A. I*, fol. 124 v.

<sup>20</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xviii), 2194.

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.* 2159. Cf. *Cat. Anct. D. v*, A.

10897.

<sup>22</sup> *Cal. Chart. R. v*, 447.

<sup>23</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1485-94, p. 209.

<sup>24</sup> His widow Joan, with her second husband Sir Christopher Garneys, claimed dower in the manor in 1515; *Cat. Anct. D.* vi, A. 13262.

<sup>25</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), xxxii, 21.

<sup>26</sup> *Cal. S. P. Dom.* 1547-1601, p. 425.

<sup>27</sup> *Cat. Anct. D. v*, A. 11147; *Feet of F.*

*Div. Cos. Mich.* 15-16 Eliz.; *Hil.* 19 Eliz.

<sup>28</sup> *Recov. R. Trin.* 42 Eliz. 20, 18.

<sup>29</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cccliv, 136.

<sup>30</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>31</sup> *Feet of Warw. East.* 7 Chas. 1.

*Recov. R. East.* 7 Chas. 1, ro. 56.

<sup>32</sup> *Feet of F. Warw. East.* 3 Wm. and M.

<sup>33</sup> *Ibid.* Hil. 2 Anne.

<sup>34</sup> *Gamekeepers' Deputations.*

<sup>35</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>36</sup> White, *Directory of Warw.* (1850).

<sup>37</sup> *Mon. Bailliffs' Accts.* (Dugd. Soc.), 61.

*Cf. Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 49.

<sup>38</sup> *Pat.* 6 Eliz. pt. 7.

<sup>39</sup> *Dugd.* 330.

<sup>40</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>41</sup> *Feet of F. Warw. East.* 1650; *Recov.*

*R. East.* 1650, ro. 87.

<sup>42</sup> *Warw. Co. Rec.* iii, 79.

<sup>43</sup> *Dugd.* 330.

<sup>44</sup> *Recov. R. Hil.* 7 Geo. II, ro. 178.

<sup>45</sup> *Gamekeepers' Deputations.*

<sup>46</sup> *Recov. R. Trin.* 10 Geo. III, ro. 206.

<sup>47</sup> *Feet of F. Warw. East.* 12 Geo. III.

<sup>48</sup> *Ibid.* East. 15 Geo. III.

<sup>49</sup> *Cal. Chart. R.* ii, 343.

<sup>50</sup> *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 255.

<sup>51</sup> *Cf. Cal. Pat.* 1292-1301, p. 443.

<sup>52</sup> *Cat. Anct. D.* iv, A. 6433.

<sup>53</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1555-7, p. 125.

<sup>54</sup> *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.).

<sup>55</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>56</sup> *Dugd.* 331.

<sup>57</sup> *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.).

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

There is no mention of the church in the *Taxatio* of 1291, but in 1341 the 'chapel' of Radbourn was said to be assessed at 25 marks.<sup>58</sup> In 1535 it is styled a 'parish church', of which the rector received a yearly payment of £5 6s. 8d. from Richard Catesby,<sup>59</sup> but the

church had by then probably fallen into decay. In 1616 it is definitely called 'the ruined church of Upper Radbourn',<sup>60</sup> and for the last three hundred years or more such few inhabitants as the parish has had have attended Ladbroke Church.

## RADFORD SEMELE

Acreage: 2,123.

Population: 1911, 556; 1921, 578; 1931, 532.

The parish forms roughly an inverted triangle, with a northern base of 1½ miles and a depth of 2½ miles to its apex in the south. Its boundary on the north is the River Leam, a tributary of which bounds it on the west, meeting at the southernmost angle the Fosse Way, which is its eastern boundary for a distance of just over a mile. Close to its northern edge the parish is crossed by the Warwick and Napton Canal and by the Rugby and Leamington branch of the L.M.S. Railway. The road from Leamington enters the parish at its north-west angle and leads to Radford Church and Hall, but most of the village lies farther to the south-east along a branch road running south past the Baptist Chapel to end at Pounce Hill Farm. Most of the land lies between 200 ft. and 250 ft., but the Leamington road on its way towards Southam reaches 300 ft. on Radford Hill, and Crown Hill, just east of Pounce Hill Farm, is also slightly over 300 ft. There are no large blocks of woodland, but there are spinneys, particularly near the village, and a good deal of timber in the hedgerows.

The village contains, at present, a number of picturesque cottages, mostly timber-framed with brick nogging and thatched roofs, dating probably from the early part of the 17th century. Radford Hall, west of the church, is a red brick house with stone dressings and mullioned windows; it dates from the early 17th century, to which period the panelling in the hall belongs, but has been considerably modernized. In the surrounding wall is a 17th-century stone doorway with cornice and pediment. The Manor House is mainly modern but contains a 16th-century timber-framed nucleus, now part of the servants' quarters.

In 1086 there was a mill worth 6s. 8d.,<sup>1</sup> and this was held by Geoffrey de Simely in 1279.<sup>2</sup> It was conveyed to Kenilworth Priory in 1325 by John Lok and Roger de Boyvill, clerks.<sup>3</sup> A water-mill was still attached to the manor in 1606<sup>4</sup> and as late as 1653.<sup>5</sup> It does not appear to be mentioned after this, but fishing rights in the River Leam belonged to the manor in the 18th century.<sup>6</sup>

In 1086 the 5-hide vill of Radford was among the estates of Turchil. It had belonged before *MANOR* the Conquest to Edwin, but had later been bought from Chetelbert (brother of Tur-

chil?) by Ermenfrid, who at the time of the survey held it from Turchil, though it was alleged that he ought to hold directly of the king.<sup>8</sup> The overlordship came to the earls of Warwick, being held of them as half a knight's fee.<sup>9</sup> The first earl, Henry de Newburgh, is said to have given the manor to Geoffrey de Clinton, who enfeoffed Henry de Simely,<sup>10</sup> who also succeeded Ermenfrid at Ashow and Calcutt in Grandborough [q.v.]. From this family the manor took its name of *RADFORD SEMELE*. Henry de Simely, at the request of his wife Emma, agreed to the confirmation of Geoffrey de Clinton's gift of the church of Radford to Kenilworth Priory.<sup>11</sup> He was followed by his son William Simely, who allowed William Pludieu to assign lands here to the Templars at some date shortly before 1185.<sup>12</sup> Geoffrey de Simely, son of William,<sup>13</sup> was holding the half-fee of the Earl of Warwick in 1242<sup>14</sup> and gave to the Hospital of St. John in Warwick 2s. rent payable by Roger de Cherleote for leave to put one end of the dam of his mill at Whitnash on Geoffrey's land in Radford.<sup>15</sup> William de Simely held the manor in 1267<sup>16</sup> and his son Geoffrey in 1279 held it, with a water-mill and 2 plough-lands, of Simon Basset,<sup>17</sup> who held of the Earl of Warwick.<sup>18</sup> Geoffrey was still lord in 1316,<sup>19</sup> and his son John, who had succeeded by 1323,<sup>20</sup> conveyed the manor and 4 plough-lands, worth 9 marks, to the Priory of Kenilworth before 1367, in which year the canons were pardoned for having received the property without licence.<sup>21</sup>

In 1279 the Prior of Kenilworth was one of the lords of Radford; he was said to hold of Richard Corbisson,<sup>22</sup> who held of Geoffrey de Simely.<sup>23</sup> During the first half of the 14th century many small grants of land in the parish were made to Kenilworth;<sup>24</sup> in 1291 the monks had 2 plough-lands, worth £2, and 9s. in rents;<sup>25</sup> in 1535 the rents from their property, apart from the rectory, amounted to £33 15s. 6d.;<sup>26</sup> the bailiff at this latter date was Henry Yardley, who received a fee of 26s. 8d.<sup>27</sup> and the Yardleys continued to hold property in the parish until at least the middle of the 17th century.<sup>28</sup> At the Dissolution the total farm



SIMELY. . . . three cinquefoils. . . .<sup>10a</sup>

<sup>58</sup> *Inq. Nov.* (Rec. Com.), 440.

<sup>59</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 62.

<sup>60</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cccxiii, 136.

<sup>1</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* i, 123.

<sup>2</sup> *Exch. K.R. Misc. Bks.* 15, fol. 27 v.

<sup>3</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1324-7, p. 88.

<sup>4</sup> *Feet of F. Warw. East.* 4 Jas. I.

<sup>5</sup> *Recov. R. Trin.* 1653, ro. 6.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.* Hil. 19 Geo. II, ro. 219; *Feet*

of F. Div. Cos. Hil. 24 Geo. III.

<sup>7</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* i, 278.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.* 323.

<sup>9</sup> *Bk. of Feet*, 959; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* i, 679;

*l.c.* i, v, p. 405.

<sup>10</sup> *Dugd.* 362.

<sup>10a</sup> From a seal: *Anct. D.* (P.R.O.),

B. 3471.

<sup>11</sup> *Dugd.* 363.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*; B. A. Lees, *Recs. of the Temp-*

*lary*, 33.

<sup>13</sup> *Bracton's Note Book*, no. 594.

<sup>14</sup> *Bk. of Feet*, 959.

<sup>15</sup> *Dugd.* 363.

<sup>16</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* i, 679.

<sup>17</sup> His son Ralph Basset of Sapcote held

the mesne lordship in 1316: *ibid.* v, 405.

<sup>18</sup> *Exch. K.R. Misc. Bks.* 15, fol. 27.

<sup>19</sup> *Feud. Aids*, v, 177.

<sup>20</sup> *Anct. D.* (P.R.O.), D. 5693.

<sup>21</sup> *Cal. Inq. Misc.* iii, 649.

<sup>22</sup> In 1290 when William Corbisson proposed to give land to Stoudeleigh it was found that he had no lands in Radford Semele which he could give: *Inq. ad q. d.* file 15, no. 14.

<sup>23</sup> *Exch. K.R. Misc. Bks.* 15, fol. 27 v.

<sup>24</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1317-21, p. 60; 1321-4, p. 14; 1324-7, p. 88; 1327-30, p. 473;

1334-8, p. 269; 1345-8, p. 47. Cf. *Chan.*

*Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), li, 20.

<sup>25</sup> *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 254.

<sup>26</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 64.

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid.* 66.

<sup>28</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), clxxxiii, 91;

dxiii, 143.



of the manor was £40 4s. 9½d., including the rectory.<sup>29</sup> The manor was granted in August 1546 to Sir Thomas Darcy,<sup>30</sup> who, as Lord Darcy of Chiche, conveyed it to Richard Knyvet and Helen his wife in tail male in 1556.<sup>31</sup> Richard died in 1559, leaving a son Henry, then aged 7 months and 15 days,<sup>32</sup> who in 1589 sold to John Browne, of Barnham (Sussex).<sup>33</sup> His son Sir William Browne died at Radford on 11 March 1637, having settled the manor on Margaret, wife of his son George and one daughter of Sir Edward Littleton.<sup>34</sup> George died without issue in 1660, his heir being Elizabeth, wife of Sir William Throckmorton. She sold to Humphrey Greswold, on whose death in 1671

a quatrefoil in the head. All this work is modern, as is also the chancel arch, springing from marble corbels.

The nave (40 ft. by 22 ft. 8 in.) opens into the north aisle (16½ ft. in width) by an arcade of three modern pointed arches, the western bay 3 ft. narrower than the other two, with moulded pillars. There are three two-light windows in the north wall of the aisle and a three-light in the 15th-century style in the west wall, all modern. The south wall of the nave, the rubble of which contrasts with the ashlar of the modern work, is the only original part of the body of the church. It contains two windows, each of two trefoiled lights under a two-centred head; the jambs are probably 14th-century but the tracery is modern. Between the two but nearer to the eastern is a small 12th-century window, of which the round head is in one stone and has a hood-mould with square stops, carved with a kind of tongue ornamentation. The south doorway has a two-centred head with two moulded orders and is probably of the 14th century; but the porch, which incorporates in its west wall part of an original buttress, is modern.

The nave opens into the tower by a lofty two-centred arch of two chamfered orders, the imposts being cut back as square pilasters. Externally the tower is of two stages, not marked by string-courses, and is faced with ashlar, the lower part being of red sandstone and the upper of grey. The angle buttresses terminate just below the parapet. There is a deep plinth with a heavy chamfer and a torus-moulded string above. In the west face is a window of three cinquefoiled lights in a three-centred head, the jambs and mullions hollow-chamfered; there is a relieving arch above it but no hood-mould. The belfry windows are small, each of two pointed lights with plain tracery under a two-centred head. At the angles of the parapet are crocketed pinnacles; these and the embattled parapet, in which the torus moulding returns down the sides of the merlons, are probably of 15th-century date. Internally, the doorway, with four-centred head, to the stairs has been blocked.

All the roofs, except that of the tower, are modern, as are the internal fittings, with the exception of a richly carved 17th-century oak chest standing in the tower and a late-18th-century vestment cupboard in the vestry.

In the west window of the tower is a little heraldic glazing (? 17th-century), including the arms of Greswold.

There are four bells:<sup>41</sup> two of 1636, one by Henry Bagley of 1641, and one by Mears of London, 1818.

The registers begin in 1565, but the earlier entries are incomplete.

The church of Radford was given ADVOWSON to his new foundation of Kenilworth Priory by Geoffrey de Clinton, the gift being confirmed by Henry I,<sup>42</sup> and by Bishop Roger de Clinton (1129-48) with the assent of Henry de Simey in whose fee it was.<sup>43</sup> It had been appropriated to the priory before 1291, when it was valued at £4.<sup>44</sup> In 1535 the rectory was farmed at £6,<sup>45</sup> and



GRESWOLD. Argent a fesse gules between two running greyhounds sable.



WILLIAMS. Gyronny ermine and ermines a lion or sprinkled with drops of blood.

it passed to his brother Henry, rector of Solihull, whose son Marshall Greswold was lord of the manor when Dr. Thomas was writing, c. 1725.<sup>35</sup> Marshall's three sons having died childless, the estate passed to their sister Mary wife of David Lewis<sup>36</sup> and then to their son Henry Greswold Lewis, on whose death in 1829 it passed to Edmund Meysey Wigley, descendant in the sixth generation from Anne (died 1669) sister of Marshall Greswold. He took the name of Greswold, as did his uncle Henry Wigley when he succeeded in 1833. Henry's daughter Alice married her cousin Francis Edward Williams and their eldest son John Francis Greswold-Williams, who died in 1892, was succeeded by his nephew Francis Wigley Greswold Williams,<sup>37</sup> who was still lord of the manor in 1932.<sup>38</sup>

The Priores of Wroxall held 1½ virgates in Radford, given by Henry de Simey with the consent of Earl Roger of Warwick.<sup>39</sup> In 1535 the priory was receiving 10s. rents from land in this parish.<sup>40</sup>

The parish church of ST. NICHOLAS consists of chancel with a vestry on the north, nave CHURCH with north aisle and south porch, and west tower. The history of its development is obscure, as it has been practically entirely rebuilt within the last 70 years, with the exception of the tower and the south wall of the nave, but it was probably built early in the 12th century and enlarged in the 14th century, when the tower was built.

The chancel has a three-light east window with perpendicular tracery; in the south wall are two windows, each of two trefoiled lights; in the north is one similar single light and the arch into the vestry, which is lighted on the north by a window of two lights with

<sup>29</sup> Mon. Bailiffs' Accts. (Dugd. Soc.), 31.

<sup>30</sup> Ibid.; L. and P. Hen. VIII, xxi (1).

<sup>31</sup> Cal. Pat. 1555-7, p. 88; Feet of F. Warw. Trin. 2 and 3 Ph. and M.

<sup>32</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cxviii, 95.

<sup>33</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Hil. 31 Eliz.

<sup>34</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccclxxxv.

<sup>35</sup> Mon. Bailiffs' Accts. (Dugd. Soc.), 31.

<sup>36</sup> Ibid.; L. and P. Hen. VIII, xxi (1).

<sup>37</sup> Cal. Pat. 1555-7, p. 88; Feet of F. Warw. Trin. 2 and 3 Ph. and M.

<sup>38</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cxviii, 95.

<sup>39</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Hil. 31 Eliz.

<sup>40</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccclxxxv.

<sup>41</sup> Mon. Bailiffs' Accts. (Dugd. Soc.), 31.

<sup>42</sup> Ibid.; L. and P. Hen. VIII, xxi (1).

<sup>43</sup> Cal. Pat. 1555-7, p. 88; Feet of F. Warw. Trin. 2 and 3 Ph. and M.

<sup>44</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cxviii, 95.

<sup>45</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Hil. 31 Eliz.

<sup>198</sup>. Cf. Feet of F. Warw. Trin. 12

Chas. I.

<sup>35</sup> Dugd. 363.

<sup>36</sup> See pedigree in Burke, Landed Gentry

19206.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid. Cf. Gamekeepers' Deputations

(1717-1878).

<sup>38</sup> P.R.O. manorial list.

<sup>39</sup> Cal. Chart. R. iv, 65; Bracton's Note

Book, no. 594.

<sup>40</sup> Valor Eccl. (Rec. Com.), iii, 89.

<sup>41</sup> Tilley and Walters, Church Bells of

Warw.

<sup>42</sup> Cal. Chart. R. iii, 277. Cf. Cal. Pat.

1476-85, p. 65.

<sup>43</sup> Harl. MS. 3650, fol. 36.

<sup>44</sup> Tas. Eccl. (Rec. Com.), 241.

<sup>45</sup> Valor Eccl. (Rec. Com.), iii, 64.

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

the vicarage was worth £5 16s.<sup>46</sup> The rectory and the advowson of the vicarage were included in the grant of the manor to Sir Thomas Darcy in 1546<sup>47</sup> and remained attached to it until c. 1920, when the patronage was transferred to the Bishop of Coventry.

Church Land. According to the CHARITIES printed Parliamentary Report of the former Commissioners concerning Charities dated 1827 the lands belonging to the charity were at the inclosure of the common fields of the parish allotted to the churchwarden, and the rent is to be applied to defraying the charges incident to the office of churchwarden.

Alfred Lythall by will dated 14 April 1921 bequeathed £100 to the incumbent and churchwardens of Radford Semele, the income to be expended in keeping in good order the churchyard. The annual income of the Charity amounts to £3 14s. 6d.

By a Declaration of Trust made in 1942 certain persons created a trust for the maintenance and repair of the churchyard at Radford Semele and of the graves and tombstones therein, and particularly the graves mentioned in the schedule to the deed, and it was agreed that other persons may hereafter make contributions to the Trust, stating the graves in which they are interested. The trust funds are required

to be invested in the name of the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds and the interest paid to the vicar and churchwardens so to be applied. The present annual income of the Charity amounts to £4 13s.

John Francis Greswolde-Williams by will dated 26 May 1891 bequeathed £1,000 to the vicar and churchwardens of Radford Semele, the income to be distributed on 23 October in each year for the benefit of the poor of the parish in certain ways specified in the will. The annual income of the Charity amounts to £25 15s. 4d.

Henry Greswolde Lewis by will proved on 9 November 1829 gave £1,500 and directed that three old men of this parish and of two other parishes should on Christmas Day be supplied with a gown of the colour of the Greswolde livery, a pair of shoes, a pair of stockings, six pounds of beef, and two pounds of bread each, and that any surplus income should be distributed on New Year's day equally among the recipients of the articles. The charity for the benefit of this parish is regulated by a Scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 9 August 1898. The Scheme appoints a body of trustees and directs that the income of the charity, amounting to £14 5s. 4d., shall be applied to the objects prescribed in the will.

## THE BOROUGH OF RUGBY

Acreage: 1,671 (old parish); 6,992 (borough).

Population: 1911, 21,758; 1921, 25,088; 1931, 34,433. 1945: (Registrar-General's estimate for borough) 42,820.

Rugby is a prosperous market town in the north-east of the county, 8½ miles from London and 30 from Birmingham. It lies on the south (left) bank of the river Avon, which is crossed by a bridge carrying the roads to Lutterworth and Leicester and to Hinckley, the ground sloping gently from a height of about 400 ft. above sea-level on the southern edge to 272 ft. by the bridge. The east boundary is formed by the Clifton Brook, which joins the Avon at Brownsover Mill. Rugby was not a borough until the present century, but a Local Board was set up in 1849, which was converted into an Urban District under the Local Government Act of 1894. By the early 20th century the old parish was almost entirely built over, and in 1932 the boundaries were extended to include the greater part of Bilton, Brownsover, Hillmorton, and Newbold-on-Avon, the town in the same year being raised to the status of a Municipal Borough, governed by a mayor, deputy mayor, 6 aldermen, and 24 councillors, and divided into 8 wards.

Markets are now held on Monday for cattle and on

Saturday for general merchandise, the latter being the descendant of the original market granted in 1255,<sup>1</sup> and there are fifteen fairs, mainly for horses and cattle, those on the last Monday in July and in the third week in November probably representing the ones granted in 1255 in connexion with the feast of St. Laurence and the annual church feast (St. Andrew) respectively. There was a market, and three fairs, in 1669,<sup>2</sup> and two large fairs and two 'very large meetings for the sale of cattle', besides a Martinmas cheese fair and the Saturday market, in 1743.<sup>3</sup> The first reference to Rugby as a shopping centre is perhaps the demise (1346) by John Brown, lord of Rugby, to William de Tekene of Yelvertoft (Northants.) of a stall in the 'Draperie',<sup>4</sup> and from the 14th century onwards the references in fines and inquisitions *post mortem* to messuages and tenements as opposed to land are rather more numerous in Rugby than in the average Warwickshire village.<sup>5</sup> As early as 1437 there was in Rugby a weaver from the Netherlands, Simon Braban, who having taken the oath of fealty and allegiance was allowed to inhabit the realm peaceably and enjoy his goods.<sup>6</sup> The progress of the town was slow, possibly owing to neighbouring markets at Dunchurch and Hillmorton which were better placed from the point of view of road traffic, and in 1663 it contained only 160 houses, 94 of which were liable to hearth tax.<sup>7</sup> These had been increased to 183 in 1730, but this figure compares poorly with the 'near 300' in Brailes and 260 in Bedworth,<sup>8</sup> and even in 1801, when the School was beginning to achieve a more than local reputation,<sup>9</sup> the population of 1,487 was smaller than that of Stratford-on-Avon, Kenilworth,



Borough of Rugby. Parry chorizontally engrailed azure and or in chief between two griffon's heads erased or a bezant charged with a rose gules in base a standing bear sable holding a ragged staff gules.

<sup>46</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 70.  
<sup>47</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xxi (1), 1537 (23).

<sup>1</sup> *Cal. Chart. R.* i, 448.

<sup>2</sup> *Pat. 21 Chas. II*, pt. 2, no. 4.

<sup>3</sup> Buccleuch-Queensberry MSS. Northants. Rec. Soc.

<sup>4</sup> *Anct. Deeds* (P.R.O.), AS. 196.

<sup>5</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xv), nos. 987, 1121, 1151, 1377, 1798; (Dugd. Soc. xviii), nos. 2279, 2309, 2552; *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), clxxx, 103; ccccix, 150; cccclxvi, 67; ccccclxxi, 65; ccccclxxvii, 115; ccccclxxxv, 157.

<sup>6</sup> *Cal. Pat. 1436-41*, p. 37.

<sup>7</sup> Nicolas, *Hist. Town and Sch. of Rugby*, 77.

<sup>8</sup> Dugd. 24, 555, 122.

<sup>9</sup> For history of the School see *V.C.H. Warwick*, ii, 360-6.



RUGBY CHURCH, c. 1820



RUGBY SCHOOL: THE CLOISTERS





and Alcester, and only just larger than Coleshill. There were then 278 houses, and 279 families.<sup>10</sup> It was the completion (1838) of the London and Birmingham Railway, the parent of the L.N.W.R. (later L.M.S.) on which system Rugby was to be a most important junction, that caused a rapid rise in population, from 2,501 in 1831 to 7,818 in 1861, leading to another threefold increase in the next half-century. The railway facilities have caused the establishment of large engineering works, in particular those of the British Thomson-Houston Company, employing several thousands; brick and cement making are other important industries. The former L.N.E.R. station, on the old Great Central line from Marylebone to the North, serves the new suburb of Hillmorton Paddock.

The original village was near St. Andrew's Church, grouped round two roads coming, respectively, from Clifton-upon-Dunsmore in the north-east and Hillmorton on the south-east and meeting a road running northwards from Southam to Mill Bridge over the Avon. North of the church were remains of earthworks and a moat, of which Leland, writing c. 1545, says:<sup>11</sup> 'There appere certen ditches at Rugby, the market towne in Warwikehire, where the Rugbys, gentilmens of fame, dwellid. . . . The place thus ditched is yet cauled the Hawle Place.' Dugdale surmised that it was an adulterine fortress of Stephen's time; but it is more likely to have been simply a moated manor-house, judging from the remains shown on the 6-in. O.S. map of 1885. The site is now built over but lies just east of the southern tip of Caldecott Park. In 1830 it was said that—'The houses are in general well built of brick, and of modern appearance, though occasionally intermixed with some of ancient character, with plastered walls and thatched roofs.'<sup>12</sup> During the 19th century the town was extensively rebuilt and in consequence it has few buildings of any antiquity.

At the corner of Chapel Street and Drury Lane stands a small timber-framed building, now covered externally with stucco and altered by the insertion of a bow window, probably as a shop front, in the early 19th century. Internally the timber-framing is visible, but has been considerably renewed.

In the market-place is a notable house, dating probably from about 1720–30. It is of three stories and is built in a warm red brick. At the north end a short portion of the frontage is set back considerably behind the main block; the first story of this portion is filled by a gateway, large enough for a carriage, leading to a small courtyard. In its present form the gateway dates from the early 19th century. The first story of the main frontage is entirely modern; a window of early-18th-century form at the north end appears to fill an original doorway. There are no quoins, but inset slightly from the angles and forming a frame for the whole block are two fluted pilasters with high moulded plinth, Corinthian capitals, and a plain frieze surmounted by a bold heavy cornice. The cornice is below the top of the third-story windows; above it a narrow pilaster, panelled on the face, rises to the top of the parapet. The second story has six windows, the pair at each end being spaced more widely apart than the others. All have segmental brick heads with emphasized keystones, moulded frames which project

slightly beyond the wall surface, and plain sills below which are brick aprons. The six third-story windows are similar in form and detail but slightly shorter. The parapet is terminated by a simply moulded stone coping which breaks around the six brick aprons and the two pilasters. There are three chimneys with moulded cappings. The frontage above the gateway has a single window in its second and third stories; its detail is identical with the main block.

Two shops (No. 2 and adjacent) on the east side of the market-place show at the rear slight traces of timber-framing, and their three small gables indicate an ancient original structure. Internally, however, the building has been so completely rebuilt as to preclude the possibility of dating it.

Nos. 56–7 Church Street appear to represent a structure of 17th-century origin which has been almost entirely rebuilt and otherwise concealed by later work.

The Rectory, behind St. Andrew's Church, dates in part from the early 18th century, but is not of any architectural distinction.

In the south of the town, on the road from Hillmorton to Lawford, stands Rugby School. The buildings erected when Laurence Sheriff founded the school in 1567 were pulled down in 1808 and replaced by buildings in the Tudor style; these were much enlarged after the tercentenary of the school in 1867, the chapel being completely rebuilt, and many additions have been made at various dates since. The chapel contains much stained glass, some of it being late-medieval of continental origin, other windows are by William Morris and later artists; and there are memorials to Dr. Arnold and his son Matthew Arnold, Dean Stanley, and others, with memorial tablets to Rupert Brooke, Arthur Hugh Clough, Charles Lutwidge Dodgson ('Lewis Carroll'), and many other famous Rugbeians. South of the school grounds is the Roman Catholic College, Convent, School and the Church of St. Marie, built in 1847, at the cost of Capt. Washington Hibbert of Bilton Grange from the designs of Augustus Welby Pugin and enlarged in 1867 under his son, Edward Welby Pugin, in the Gothic style of the 13th and 14th centuries.<sup>13</sup> Farther to the south-east is the Hospital of St. Cross, opened in 1884 and enlarged during the present century.

There was a severe attack of plague in 1634, the burials in that year numbering 65 as opposed to an average (1629–41) of 21.<sup>14</sup> The rector at this time was James Nalton or Norton,<sup>15</sup> a noted Puritan preacher, who was referred to by Nehemiah Wharton. The latter had 'good quarter' here on his march westwards from Northampton in 1642, and states that the town was 'lately disarmed by the cavaliers on the Sabbath day, the inhabitants being at church'.<sup>16</sup> An early reference to Dissent in Rugby is in 1672, when the house of Abraham Harper was licensed for Presbyterian worship;<sup>17</sup> a Baptist meeting house (now the Church House) was built in 1803, and a Wesleyan chapel in 1823, the latter having three years later an average congregation of 60 and a Sunday school of 90.<sup>18</sup>

In 1818 the parish workhouse was found to be too small and was sold for £300; a union of Rugby and the immediately surrounding parishes was formed and a House of Industry for 130 paupers built at a cost of

<sup>10</sup> Census of 1801. In 1811, of 330 families in the town, nearly one-third (107) were engaged in agriculture.

<sup>11</sup> *Itinerary* (ed. Toulmin Smith), i, 5.

<sup>12</sup> S.

<sup>13</sup> Kelly, *Directory of Warwick*.

<sup>14</sup> Nicolas, op. cit. 76.

<sup>15</sup> *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

<sup>16</sup> Lewis, *Top. Dict.*

<sup>17</sup> *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1641–3, pp. 301–21.

*Archæologia*, XXXV, 324.

<sup>18</sup> *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1672, p. 379.

<sup>19</sup> Nicolas, op. cit. 82, 83.

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

£3,000. The experiment proved successful, the poor rates being reduced from £1,666 2s. 4½d. in 1818 to £782 12s. 7d. in 1825 and the participating parishes increased to 21, including as far as Long Itchington on the west and Long Buckley (Northants.) on the east.<sup>19</sup> In 1825 there was a proposal to erect a market hall on the site of the shambles, but it failed owing to the opposition of the lord of the manor.<sup>20</sup>

The manorial right of free warren was still being exercised in 1683, when William Burnaby, then lord of the manor, found it more profitable to inclose and cultivate the 80 acres of warren ground. After three years he was induced to transfer this ground to the freeholders of the town.<sup>21</sup> The general inclosure of the parish, of 42 yardlands or 1,500 acres, took place in 1773.<sup>22</sup>

There was a mill at Rugby in 1086,<sup>23</sup> and in the middle of the 16th century as many as 4 wind- and 2 water-mills.<sup>24</sup>

Eminent men connected with Rugby (other than through the School) include John Moultrie (1799-1874), poet and hymn writer, rector from 1825 till his death; Peter Whalley, born at Rugby in 1722, who edited Bridges's *History and Antiquities of Northamptonshire*; Albert Henry Wratistaw (1822-92), Slavonic scholar, of Czech origin, whose father was a Rugby solicitor; and Matthew Holbeche Bloxam (1805-88), who was born here, his father being one of the masters at the School, and was intimately connected with the place throughout his long life, during which he wrote many archaeological works of importance, particularly on the history of Gothic Architecture.<sup>25</sup>

RUGBY was rated at 2½ hides in 1086, MANOR when Eddulf, who had held it freely before the Conquest, was a tenant of Turchil of Warwick. There was a valuable mill, worth 13s. 4d.<sup>26</sup> The overlordship of the Earls of Warwick as to half a knight's fee is recorded in 1235 and 1242,<sup>27</sup> 1315<sup>28</sup> and 1401.<sup>29</sup> In 1233 Thomas de War', possibly the then earl, obtained from Amicabil, Isabel, and Agnes, sisters of Henry de Clinton, and their husbands, all right in the lands, tenements and fees in Rugby and elsewhere which they held of the inheritance of their brother.<sup>30</sup> At some time before the end of the 13th century an intermediate tenancy was held by the Bassets of Sapcote (Leics.), for in 1295-6 Ralph Basset, son and heir of Simon, granted to Peter de Leicester the wardship of all lands held of him in Rugby by the heirs of Ranulf de Rokeby, and the marriage of Annabil, daughter of the latter.<sup>31</sup> In 1315 he held half a fee of the Earl of Warwick in Rugby and Binley.<sup>32</sup> The manor was described as held of the heirs of Ralph Basset of Sapcote in 1372<sup>33</sup> and 1509.<sup>34</sup>

The Domesday tenant 'Eddulf' or Ethelwolf, had a son Thurbert, whose son Henry de Rokeby had a son Henry.<sup>35</sup> The Henry who held half a fee of the Earl

of Warwick in 1235 was probably the Henry de Rokeby who in 1255 obtained free warren and the right to hold a Saturday market and annual fair on the vigil, feast, and morrow of St. Lawrence.<sup>36</sup> Annabil, widow of (presumably a later) Henry de Rokeby, in 1286 claimed the market, fair, and free warren, producing the charter of 1255 in evidence, and also assize of bread and ale, to which she was not entitled, these privileges being disallowed and taken into the hands of the sheriff.<sup>37</sup> She was still holding the manor in dower in 1309.<sup>38</sup> Her granddaughter Annabil (daughter of Ralph or Ranulf) brought the manor by marriage to John Gobaud, who was returned as lord of Rugby cum membris in 1316,<sup>39</sup> and in 1327-8 they and her heirs were granted view of frankpledge, and waif, in the manor.<sup>40</sup> Their son John Gobaud passed the manor in 1349-50 to Ralph, Earl of Stafford, and Sir John Odingsels, and their heirs;<sup>41</sup> it had previously been settled by John Charnels on John Brown of Burbage (Leics.),<sup>42</sup> probably the second husband of Annabil the widow of John Gobaud the elder, and on John Gobaud the younger and his heirs. In the same year (1350) Sir Thomas and John de Charnels released all their



STAFFORD. Or a chevron gules.

interests in the manor to Ralph, Earl of Stafford,<sup>43</sup> who died in possession thereof in 1372.<sup>44</sup> Nicholas Gobaud, rector of Cley (Norfolk), presumably the last survivor of the above-mentioned settlement, released all his right in the manor of Rugby to Hugh, Earl of Stafford, Ralph's son, in 1384.<sup>45</sup> Hugh was succeeded by his son Thomas, but as he was a minor the estates were entrusted to Thomas de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick (the overlord of the manor), and others in 1387.<sup>46</sup> In the early 15th century the manor was held for life by Sir Hugh Stafford, probably Thomas's youngest brother, who was succeeded by his nephew Humphrey, son of Edward Stafford, in 1421.<sup>47</sup> The latter made a settlement of his estates in 1427;<sup>48</sup> he was later created Duke of Buckingham and was killed at the battle of Northampton (1460). The settlement, as regards Rugby, was apparently on his second son Henry and the wife of the latter, with remainder to his own right heirs, for in 1484, when Henry Stafford was dead and his widow Margaret (Countess of Richmond) had married Thomas, Lord Stanley, the latter was stated to hold a life tenancy of the manor (valued at £43 2s. 7d.), the reversion being granted to John, Lord Dudley and his wife, owing to the forfeiture of the Buckingham estates by the 2nd duke's attainder.<sup>49</sup> This reversion never took effect, as the 3rd duke was restored to favour on the accession of Henry VII and obtained possession of Rugby manor, rated as half a fee,

<sup>19</sup> Nicolas, op. cit. 85-7.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid. 88.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid. 44-51.

<sup>22</sup> Slater, *Engl. Peasantry and Encl.* 303.

<sup>23</sup> *V.C.H. Warwick*, i. 321.

<sup>24</sup> Feet of F. Warw. East. 1, Mich. 2-3.

Mich. 3-4 Eliz.

<sup>25</sup> *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

<sup>26</sup> *V.C.H. Warwick*, i. 321.

<sup>27</sup> *Book of Fees*, 957, 957.

<sup>28</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* v. 615 (p. 405).

<sup>29</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 2 Hen. IV. 58.

<sup>30</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xi), 499.

<sup>31</sup> Nicolas, op. cit. 15-17; Cott. Chart.

xviii, 3.

<sup>32</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v. 615 (p. 405).

<sup>33</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 46 Edw. III. 62.

<sup>34</sup> *Ibid.* (Ser. 2), xxv, 13.

<sup>35</sup> See above, under Binley, p. 36.

<sup>36</sup> *Cal. Chart. R.* i. 448.

<sup>37</sup> *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.),

779-80.

<sup>38</sup> Dugd. 24, quoting MSS. of Dean

and Chapter of Lichfield.

<sup>39</sup> *Feudal Aids*, v. 176.

<sup>40</sup> *Chan. Inq. a.q.d.* file cxvii, 18.

<sup>41</sup> Dugd. 24, quoting MSS. *pene* Edw.

Peto of Chesterton.

<sup>42</sup> Stated to be lord in 1346, presumably in the right of his wife; *Anct. Deeds* (P.R.O.), AS. 196.

<sup>43</sup> Nicolas, op. cit. 19; Cott. Chart. xxiv,

9; Add. Chart. 20585.

<sup>44</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 46 Edw. III. 62.

<sup>45</sup> Nicolas, op. cit. 20; Cott. Chart. xxv,

35.

<sup>46</sup> *Cal. Fine R.* x, 173; *Cal. Pat.* 1385-9,

p. 365.

<sup>47</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 1 Hen. VI. 33.

<sup>48</sup> *Cal. Close*, 1422-30, pp. 318, 321, 344.

<sup>49</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1476-85, p. 423.

on the death of the Countess of Richmond in 1509.<sup>50</sup> After his execution in 1521 the manor was granted in tail to Sir Gilbert Talboys and Elizabeth his wife.<sup>51</sup> By the marriage of Elizabeth their daughter and heir the manor came to Ambrose Dudley, later Earl of Warwick; they were confirmed in possession in 1556, when the manor contained 12 messuages, 8 cottages, a water-mill, a horse-mill, 20 gardens and orchards, free warren and fishery in the Avon, and land estimated at 500 acres arable, 200 meadow, 200 pasture, 1,000 'rush ground' and heath, and 20 of moor.<sup>52</sup> He was licensed in 1560 to alienate it to John Wyrley and Dorothy (Wake) his wife and the heirs of the latter.<sup>53</sup> Dorothy survived her husband, and at her death in 1586 her eldest son Francis was aged 49; the manor was stated to be held of the queen in chief.<sup>54</sup> Francis, shortly before his death in 1592, passed his interest in the manor to his brother-in-law Francis Duffelde of Medmenham (Bucks.).<sup>55</sup> There was probably a family settlement among the Wyrleys in the interest of Margaret, wife of William Starkey of Whitley (Coventry),<sup>56</sup> for in 1594 the manor and advowson were conveyed for £2,100 by Wake Starkey, probably her son, and his wife Joan, to Richard Burnaby of Watford (Northants.), his wife Susan and son John, warranty being against Wake, the heirs of Francis Duffelde and Dorothy (Wyrley) his wife and of Francis Wyrley.<sup>57</sup> The manor remained with the Burnaby family for over a century.<sup>58</sup> William Burnaby was lord in 1670<sup>59</sup> and in 1679-80 was cited as a popish recusant.<sup>60</sup> His widow Ann held the manor, presumably in dower, in 1715-18.<sup>61</sup> Their son William died in 1715 and in 1720 the coheiresses Mary and Elizabeth, with their husbands Samuel Towers and Nathaniel Langley, sold the manor to William Boughton.<sup>62</sup> About this date the manorial rights and estate became separated, the latter in 1730 being the property of 'one Plowman, of Northampton',<sup>63</sup> a century later the demesne attached to the manor amounted to 60 acres only of the 1,547 comprised in the parish.<sup>64</sup> William Boughton died in 1720 without issue, bequeathing the manor to his sister-in-law Ann for life, with remainder to her son, another William, who died in 1746, having left the manor to his wife Ann, her heirs, and assigns.<sup>65</sup> The second William Boughton seems to have had some intention of selling the manor to the Dukes of Montague, a particular of the manor in 1743 among the Buccleuch-Queensberry MSS. ending with the words 'Mr. Boughton expects



BURNABY. *Argent two bars and in chief a leopard ducal.*

to sell the whole for 2000 guineas'. At this date the profits amounted to £80 4s. 3½d. annually, including chief rents of £2 15s. 8d., stalls and shops in the Shambles and other streets £18 17s. 9d., profits of the fairs and market £38 18s. 3½d., presentments at the court leet of Michaelmas 1742 £14 1s. 3d., reeds in the river let at 5s., and the fishery, 'a very good one', at £3 3s. The lord of the manor had the sole right of turves and gorse on a piece of Rugby Heath called the Channels, comprising 56 acres. It was stated that several shops had lately been taken down.<sup>66</sup> Ann Boughton, with her second husband William Caldecott, was dealing with it in 1748,<sup>67</sup> and was returned as lady of the manor between 1751 and 1753.<sup>68</sup> William Caldecott was said to be lord in 1762,<sup>69</sup> but his wife was still alive in 1768, when she and her husband, together with her daughter Anna and her husband, Alexander Hume, made a settlement.<sup>70</sup> The last-named was lord (up to 1777 in the right of his wife) from 1769 to 1794.<sup>71</sup> His son Abraham was vouchee in a recovery in the latter year,<sup>72</sup> and in 1801 sold the manor to his uncle Abraham Caldecott, who was succeeded in 1826 by his son Thomas,<sup>73</sup> who was lord in 1850.<sup>74</sup> Such manorial rights as remain are vested in this family.



CALDECOTT. *Argent a fesse azure fretty or between three cinquefoils gules.*

In 1572 Thomas Lee of Clattercote (Oxon.) bequeathed property in Rugby described as a manor to his wife Mary, remainder to his nephew Thomas Watson for life, and then to Richard, son of Richard Lee of Wyddenbury (Cheshire).<sup>75</sup>

In the reign of Henry II Henry de Rokeby granted to Pipewell abbey (Northants.) a parcel of land in Rugby called Nepland, on which a grange was built, and 5 virgates of meadow called Millholme. This seems to have been on the eastern side of the manor, for sheep were allowed to be pastured in the fields of Hillmorton, for which privilege the abbot gave the lord of that manor one wether sheep annually.<sup>76</sup> In 1275-6 the abbey held 3 virgates in Rugby<sup>77</sup> and in 1284 3½ virgates.<sup>78</sup> The abbey was acquitted of scutage owed to the Earl of Warwick by Ranulf de Rokeby in 1290.<sup>79</sup> The value of this property was £2 10s. in 1291,<sup>80</sup> and in 1535 £6 8s. 6d.<sup>81</sup> George Thorne was in 1545 appointed bailiff and collector for these lands.<sup>82</sup> Two years later the rent of the grange was £4, the tenants being Thomas Bronnekenner and Margaret his wife, who had a 45-year lease of the monastery dating from 1530. There were also 2 free tenants, 2 tenants at will, and 3 customary tenants.<sup>83</sup> In 1557 the former

<sup>50</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), xxv, 13.  
<sup>51</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, iii (2), 2356.  
<sup>52</sup> She was the mistress of Henry VIII and the mother of Henry Fitzroy, Duke of Richmond; Nicolas, op. cit. 30.  
<sup>53</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1555-7, p. 531.  
<sup>54</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1558-60, p. 407; Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 3-4 Eliz.  
<sup>55</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), ccxiv, 201.  
<sup>56</sup> *Anct. Deeds* (P.R.O.), AA. 52.  
<sup>57</sup> Baker, *Northants.* i, 356.  
<sup>58</sup> Nicolas, op. cit. 37; Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 36-7 Eliz.  
<sup>59</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), dlili, 48; Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 1650, and 1653.  
<sup>60</sup> Nicolas, op. cit., 36, quoting Rugby

Court Rolls.  
<sup>61</sup> *Warw. Co. Rec.* vii, 156, 170.  
<sup>62</sup> Nicolas, as above, quoting Court Rolls.  
<sup>63</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Trin. 7 Geo. I.  
<sup>64</sup> Dugd. 24.  
<sup>65</sup> Nicolas, op. cit. 87: 204 acres belonged to the rectory as glebe, 686 were divided among 5 large proprietors holding from 60 to 342 acres, and there was an unspecified number of landowners with less than 50 acres each.  
<sup>66</sup> Nicolas, op. cit. 38-9.  
<sup>67</sup> Buccleuch-Queensberry MSS., Northants. Rec. Soc.  
<sup>68</sup> Feet of F. Div. Cos. Trin. 21-2 Geo. II.  
<sup>69</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations, Shire

Hill, Warwick.  
<sup>70</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Hil. 3 Geo. III.  
<sup>71</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations.  
<sup>72</sup> *Recov. R. Trin.* 34 Geo. III, ro. 303.  
<sup>73</sup> Nicolas, op. cit. 43.  
<sup>74</sup> White, *Directory of Warw.* 665.  
<sup>75</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cxlii, 135.  
<sup>76</sup> Nicolas, op. cit. 6; Cott. MS. Otho B. xiv, fol. 101.  
<sup>77</sup> *Rot. Hund.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 225.  
<sup>78</sup> *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 84.  
<sup>79</sup> *Abbrev. Plac.* (Rec. Com.), 221.  
<sup>80</sup> *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 257.  
<sup>81</sup> *Palbr. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 295.  
<sup>82</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xvi (1), p. 72.  
<sup>83</sup> *Monastic Estates in Warw.* (Dugd. Soc. ii), 107-8.

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

Pipewell property was granted to Sir Rowland Hill and Thomas Leigh, of London.<sup>84</sup>

A number of small properties in Rugby belonged to Chalcombe priory (Northants.).<sup>85</sup> They were in 1543 granted to Sir John Williams and Anthony Stringer,<sup>86</sup> their value in 1547 being 6s. 5d.<sup>87</sup>

Land in Rugby belonging to the alien priory of Monks Kirby, no doubt on the north and west of the parish adjacent to those where this priory held most of its property, were transferred on its suppression to the Carthusian priory of Axholme (Lincs.).<sup>88</sup> They were worth 24s. in 1535<sup>89</sup> and were granted in 1543 to Thomas Mannyng, Bishop of Ipswich and formerly prior of Butley (Suffolk).<sup>90</sup>

The church of *ST. ANDREW* consists of chancel, transepts, nave, two north aisles, south aisle, and north and south porches; there is a tower at the west end of the inner north aisle and another, with spire, adjoining the north transept. The church was rebuilt in its present form by Butterfield in 1877-9 and the north-east tower was added in 1896.<sup>91</sup>

The inner north aisle occupies the site of the old nave; four bays of the former north arcade are said to be incorporated in the arcade dividing the north aisles, but this can mean no more than re-use of some old material.

The west tower is 13 ft. 9 in. square internally; its east wall is about 2 ft. 10 in. thick and the others are about 3 ft. 8 in. It is built of a pale grey stone, and has a very severe appearance. There is a projecting stair-vice at the south-east angle, a low chamfered plinth, and a string-course below the battlements, but there are no external architectural divisions of the tower into stages, and no buttresses. The north and south<sup>92</sup> faces have each three windows, corresponding to the ground story, the ringing-chamber, and the bell-chamber. The west face has windows in the second and third stages, and the east face one only, in the bell-chamber. Originally the tower was entered only from the former nave by a doorway which has a two-centred head of two chamfered orders which are continuous in the jambs. Much of the masonry has been scraped. Inside the tower is a modern segmental-headed rear-arch which shows on the north side a hole for a sliding door-bar. Both north and south walls contain a tall, square-headed window with splayed jambs. Most of the masonry in the thickness of the wall shows ancient tool-marks except in the south side, where there is a considerable amount of modern smooth-faced ashlar. In the south wall at the south-east angle is a stair-vice; its square-headed doorway has chamfered jambs and a modern lintel. Near the south-west angle in the same wall is a modern door into the churchyard. In the west wall is a fire-place having a low plain segmental head, which is flush with the wall. In each angle are vault ribs springing from a tapered corbel. The vault, whether it was ever completed or not,<sup>93</sup> was designed to be of complex quadripartite type with tiercerons

springing from the angles to join the ridge-ribs. The east wall to a height of about 10 ft. is of coursed medium-sized rubble, very roughly faced, and above that is like the north, south, and west walls, of large and fairly smooth coursed ashlar. The whole of the tower is whitewashed internally.

The internal masonry of the stair-vice is mostly a grey stone with a fairly smooth face and is carefully jointed but with much modern repointing. The door to the ringing chamber has a pointed segmental head with a chamfer which is continuous in the jambs. The north and south walls each contain a square-headed window with splayed rear-arch; that on the north is filled with leaded bull's-eye panes of pale-green and pink glass. In the west wall towards the south-west angle is a window slit having a splayed, square-headed rear-arch which has a narrow chamfer. Above the floor-boards of the ringing-chamber is visible in the east and west walls the apex of a chamfered arch. From the surviving traces of masonry it seems that the top side of the axial ridge of the vault was a narrow platform, presumably to take the flooring. The north wall also shows the apex of an arch, but there are no comparable traces of a ridge-rib. In this stage, as below, the east wall is of small coursed rubble with a rough face, except in the upper part where it is of smoother ashlar. The other walls are of coursed ashlar, except in the spandrels of the vaulting arches, where the masonry is very roughly finished, as if a vault had been destroyed.

The doorway to the bell-chamber is chamfered externally in its square head and jambs; the lintel and the projecting shoulders on which it rests are modern. Each of the square-headed windows has two lights with round trefoiled heads, a rear-arch with shouldered lintel, and is fitted with sound-boards. In this stage all the angles clearly show straight joints, and putlog-holes are visible in each wall.

The battlements have a simple moulding carried down the merlons, behind one of which is the chimney for the ground stage fireplace. The stair-vice ends in a small battlemented turret open on the west side, and there is a shallow pyramidal roof covered with lead.

Few of its architectural features assist in dating this structure, but it would seem to be of the 14th century.

The organ was built in 1664 by Dallam, enlarged in 1801, rebuilt and restored to its original form in 1841.<sup>94</sup>

There is a chalice, and paten given by Thomas Shingler of London, haberdasher, in 1633; a flagon by Edward Boddington in 1791; and an alms dish of 1791.

At the west end of the nave is an ancient chest<sup>95</sup> with scrolled ironwork, of the 13th century, and furnished with four solid wooden wheels.

In the south transept are the stem and part of the bowl of a medieval font, too much worn and damaged to give any clear indication of its date. The present font is modern.

The west tower contains five bells,<sup>96</sup> all of 1711, by

<sup>84</sup> Cal. Pat. 1555-7, p. 476.

<sup>85</sup> Anct. Deeds (P.R.O.), B. 3134.

<sup>86</sup> L. and P. Hen. VIII, 3137-9.

<sup>87</sup> L. and P. Hen. VIII, xviii (1), 226 (79).

<sup>88</sup> Monastic Estates in Warwick. (Dugl. Soc. ii), 102.

<sup>89</sup> P.C.H. Warw. ii, 131.

<sup>90</sup> Valor Eccl. (Rec. Com.), iv, 135.

<sup>91</sup> L. and P. Hen. VIII, xiv (1), 651 (57).

<sup>92</sup> A view of the old church in the Aylesford Collection (c. 1820) shows the (existing) west tower, a short chancel, nave with four clearstory windows on the south, and apparently two south aisles. All the windows, except that in the tower, had lost all their tracery and other medieval features.

<sup>93</sup> The Aylesford view shows the south side unpericed by any window.

<sup>94</sup> M. H. Bloxam considered it had not been completed: *Principles of Gothic Ecclesiastical Architecture*, i, 1763 ii, 21.

<sup>95</sup> Rev. A. Freeman, *English Organ Cases* (1921), 37.

<sup>96</sup> Described and figured in *Birm. Arch. Soc. Trans.* xx, 73.

<sup>97</sup> Tilly and Walters, *Church Bells of Warw.* 208-9.



Joseph Smith of Edgbaston. In the north-east tower are eight bells cast in 1895.

The registers begin in 1620.

**HOLY TRINITY** Church, consecrated in 1854 as a chapel of ease to the parish church, was built in the Decorated style from the designs of Sir George Gilbert Scott. It consists of chancel, transepts, and central tower, nave with aisles, and north porch.

The church of **ST. MATTHEW**, in Warwick Street, was built in 1841 in the style of the 13th century, and consists of nave, aisles, and a bell-turret. This district was constituted an ecclesiastical parish in 1868.<sup>97</sup>

The church was originally a **ADVOWSON** chapelry of Clifton-upon-Dunsmore, and was granted to Leicester Abbey by the first Arnold de Bois,<sup>98</sup> being exchanged by the abbot with Henry de Rokeby for his land in Holmer (Bucks.) before 1200,<sup>99</sup> in which year a lawsuit occurred over this exchange, which Henry withdrew on being allowed to present a clerk to the abbot for institution to the chapel, as rector, receiving all the tithes and paying 20s. yearly to the abbey.<sup>1</sup> This arrangement was renewed in 1221, when the abbot was authorized to receive the pension due from the chapel in the name of his church of Clifton.<sup>2</sup> The chapel had become parochial by 1291, when its value was £5.<sup>3</sup> The abbots of Leicester continued to present on the nomination of the various lords of the manor up to the Reformation; the church was never appropriated, the value of the rectory in 1535 being £17 19s. 2d., with 20s. for pensions to the abbey and 9s. 6d. for procurations and synodals.<sup>4</sup> The advowson descended with the manor till 1718, when Robert Jolland presented,<sup>5</sup> probably by concession of the Burnaby family as his presentee was Samuel Towers, and in 1730 it was held by Samuel Towers, the rector, in the right of his wife Mary (Burnaby).<sup>6</sup> It was still in his hands in 1763, but the next presentation (1767) was made by Earl Craven,<sup>8</sup> with whose descendants the patronage has since remained.

The advowson of the church of St. Matthew, dating from 1841, is in the hands of trustees.

Land in Rugby in the tenure of John Mabbis, granted in 1570 to Nicholas Yetsweirt and Bartholomew Brokesby, had formerly provided the endowment for a lamp in the church.<sup>9</sup>

The Lawrence Sheriff Almshouses **CHARITIES** were founded by deed in 1567 at the same time and as part of the same foundation as Rugby School, for four old men of Rugby and Brownover; the almshouses were later enlarged and the number of almsmen increased to twelve. The charity is regulated by the following amongst other instruments: Acts of Parliament 17 Geo. III, c. 71, and 54 Geo. III, c. 131; scheme made under the Public Schools Act, 1872; The Rugby School Act, 1922; scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 16 April 1924.

The last-mentioned scheme contains provisions relating to the payment of stipends and allowances to the almsmen of the charity and also rules for their governance.

Richard Elborough by Indentures dated 10 and

11 October 1707 conveyed to trustees the school-house and almshouses in Rugby; a tenement on the north side of the school-house court, and one on the south side; two other tenements on the town's end, towards Bilton; a tenement in Cosford in the parish of Newbold, with 6 closes of land and other property in the county of Warwick, upon trust that the school-house should be used for the teaching of 30 poor children of Rugby, that the tenement on the north side of the school-house should be for the habitation of the schoolmaster, freed from all taxes and charges, that the almshouses should be for the habitation of six poor widows of Rugby, and that the rents and profits should be applied to the following uses: viz. to pay the schoolmaster £15 per annum on Good Friday and on the first Tuesday in October; and the yearly rent of £24 to the six widows, that is to say £4 to be paid to each by 1s. 6d. a week on every Saturday and the remaining 2s. at the half-year's end by 1s. a time. That the trustees should yearly lay out £14 to buy the 30 children an outer garment on Good Friday, and a gown for each of the six widows once in two years on Good Friday. That the trustees should yearly pay to the minister of Rugby 13s. 4d. for preaching a sermon in Rugby Church on Good Friday, in the afternoon, and 1s. 8d. to the clerk for his attendance there; and 5s. for bread for such poor people of Rugby on that day as the trustees should think fit. That the trustees should lay out yearly 40s. in May or June for coals for the six widows; also 20s. to be spent at the meeting of the trustees on the first Tuesday in October yearly.

The charity with the subsidiary endowments of Emma Lee (founded by will proved on 31 July 1876) and Sarah Errington (founded by will proved on 14 July 1880) is comprised in a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 28 June 1906. By this the part of the endowment of the charity which is held for educational purposes consists of: four schoolrooms in Hill Street, Rugby, with the sites and appurtenances, two playgrounds on the south side of the schoolrooms, the schoolmaster's residence in St. John Street, Rugby, a small garden ground on the north side of the Master's house, and a sum of £1,600 Consols. The remainder of the endowment shall henceforth be administered as a separate charity under the title of the Non-Educational Charity of Richard Elborough and no part of the endowment of this charity shall henceforth be chargeable towards the Educational Foundation. The annual income of the Non-Educational Charity amounts to £180 approximately.

Thomas Wheatley by Indenture dated 7 April 1563 charged certain property in the county of Warwick and elsewhere with the annual payment of 10s. to each of four poor men, dwelling and being householders of the parish of Rugby.

Richard Elkington by will dated 29 May 1607 gave £50 to the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Commonalty of Coventry to be lent to five poor artificers or tradesmen of Rugby to be nominated by the parson and churchwardens of Rugby, with interest at 5 per cent. and directed 35s. of the yearly interest should be paid to the poor of Rugby between 21 and 25 December by the parson and churchwardens, and 6s. to the use of

<sup>97</sup> Kelly, *Directory of Warwick*.

<sup>98</sup> Dugdale, *Mon. Angl.* vi, 405;

Nichols, *Leics.* i, app. 80.

<sup>99</sup> Dugd. 23; Cott. MS. Vitell. F. xvii, fol. 7.

<sup>1</sup> *Curia Regis* R. i, 402; *Abbrev. Plac.*

(*Rec. Com.*), 32.

<sup>2</sup> *Fest of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xi), 239.

<sup>3</sup> *Tax. Eccl.* (*Rec. Com.*), 241.

<sup>4</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (*Rec. Com.*), iii, 62.

<sup>5</sup> Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.).

<sup>6</sup> Dugd. 24.

<sup>7</sup> *Exton. Testamentary*, 64.

<sup>8</sup> Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.).

<sup>9</sup> Pat. 12 Edw. pt. 1, m. 23.

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the town clerk for entering the orders and making the bonds, and 9s. to the poor artificers towards their charges. The endowment of the charity is now represented by a sum of Consols producing an annual income of £1 7s. 4d.

Edward Tyrell by will dated 10 June 1614 gave to the parson and churchwardens of Rugby to the use of the poor within the parish 20s. yearly issuing out of his dwelling-house in the parish of St. Dunstan, London, and an additional 2s. to pay for the fetching and distributing thereof, to be paid yearly at the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle, to the most ancient dwellers of the poor there.

Thomas Shingler. By Indenture dated 22 March 1616 it is witnessed that Thomas Shingler had delivered to the Master and Wardens of the Haberdashers' Company of the City of London £100; in consideration thereof the Master and Wardens were content to pay yearly £5, whereof £4 15s. was to be paid to the parson and churchwardens of the town of 'Rokbey' to be by them employed for the charitable purposes following, viz.: for the buying of twenty pennyworth of bread to be weekly on the sabbath day in the parish church after divine service in the forenoon, given and distributed among the aged poor people of the parish, and that 6s. 8d. be paid to some godly preacher to make a sermon yearly on the Saturday after the Epiphany, and that the balance be distributed amongst the aged poor people of the parish who should resort to the sermon, in twenty pennyworth of bread.

John Woodford by will dated 15 September 1680 gave to the poor of Rugby £60, provided that the churchwardens and others of the town should buy land to yield £3 a year and dispose of it in the following manner, viz.: 10s. each quarter in bread to the poor; and on the last Sunday in May 10s. to the minister for preaching a sermon to excite people to charity, and the other 10s. to be given in bread on that day. The endowment of the charity now consists of stocks producing an annual income of £59 9s. 6d.

Henry Holyoake by will dated 11 February 1731 gave £200, the interest to go to the poor of this parish.

Mary Brooks by will dated 29 January 1738 gave to the churchwardens and overseers of Rugby £20, the income to be laid out in bread and distributed to poor widows, in sixpenny loaves on St. Thomas's Day.

It is stated in the printed Parliamentary Reports of the Commissioners for Inquiring Concerning Charities in 1834 that by an Indenture dated 3 July 1750, reciting the above-mentioned legacies of £200 and £20, the £220 was laid out in the purchase of land at Sapote to be held upon trust to permit the churchwardens and overseers to receive the rents and dispose of the same in the following manner: first to pay 20s. a year in sixpenny loaves to poor widows on St. Thomas's Day so long as the legal interest of money should remain at 5 per cent., but in case it should be reduced or raised then to apply the interest of £20 in like manner according to the will of Mary Brooks; secondly to pay the chief rents, taxes, and repairs and expenses, and lastly to apply the residue yearly for the use of the poor of the parish, in pursuance of the will of Henry Holyoake. The annual income of the charities amount to £51.

Anne Blake by will dated 8 December 1724 charged her estate in the parish of Churchover with the annual payment of £5 to the minister, churchwardens, and

overseers of the parish of Rugby to be distributed among the poor of the parish.

It appears that Mary Howkins who died in 1851 left by her will to the rector or vicar and churchwardens of Rugby £100, to apply the interest equally between and among the six poor almswomen resident in the almshouses at Rugby. The annual income of the charity amounts to £2 3s. 8d.

Charles Butlin's Charity. Mrs. Lydia Butlin, widow of Charles Butlin, gave the sum of £50 to the minister and churchwardens of Rugby, pursuant to the request of her husband, the interest to be applied in the purchase of bread to be distributed at Christmas to the most necessitous and deserving poor of the parish. The annual income of the charity amounts to £1 7s. 4d.

William Butlin by will dated 15 August 1832 bequeathed to the churchwardens and overseers of the parish of Rugby £50, the interest to be laid out as near to Christmas Day as conveniently might be in purchasing bread to be distributed amongst the poor of the parish.

Catherine Butlin by will dated 28 December 1858 gave to the rector and churchwardens of Rugby £400, to lay out the interest in placing out as apprentices, deserving children (males or females) of parents residing in and belonging to the parish, or orphan children of deceased parents who resided in and belonged to the parish. The annual income of the charity amounts to £10 18s. 4d.

The Catherine Butlin Almshouse Charity. The charity of Catherine Butlin comprised in indentures dated 3 February 1851 and 30 January 1905 and endowed by her by will proved on 20 June 1860, with the subsidiary endowment of Maria Benn founded by her will and other endowments of the Benn family, are regulated by schemes of the Charity Commissioners dated 21 September 1906 and 19 July 1918 under the title of The Catherine Butlin Almshouse Charity. The schemes appoint trustees and provide for the application of the income for the benefit of the almspeople in the almshouse buildings belonging to the charity. The annual income of the charity amounts to £90 13s.

Maria Benn by will dated 8 February 1873 bequeathed to the rector and churchwardens of Rugby £500, the interest to be laid out in the purchase of flannel blankets, coals, or bread to be distributed annually on or as near to Christmas Day as can be amongst the deserving poor of the parish. The annual income of the charity amounts to £12 8s. 8d.

George Charles Benn by will dated 31 August 1894 devised to the Rugby Local Board a message called the Shoulder of Mutton Inn in the High Street, Rugby, and the sum of £6,000 upon trust to erect upon the premises some building likely to be useful to the town of Rugby at a cost not exceeding £4,000, the residue of the £6,000 to be invested and the income applied in maintaining the said building when erected, in order that no expense shall fall upon the ratepayers of Rugby in respect thereof. Such a building was erected and the repair fund invested. By a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 17 November 1936 it is provided that the charity and the endowments thereof shall be administered by the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough of Rugby, as trustees.

George Charles Benn by will dated 31 August 1894 gave to the rector and churchwardens of St. Andrew's, Rugby, £2,000, the income to be given away annually in coals or blankets to the deserving poor people of the

parish as near about Christmas time as might be convenient. The annual income of the charity amounts to £46 15s. 8d.

The Benn Charity for the Poor of Rugby. George Charles Benn in 1894 gave to the rector and churchwardens of Rugby in memory of his brother A. S. Benn a sum of £2,000 for the poor of Rugby. By a Declaration of Trust executed on 18 August 1906 it was declared that the income of the charity should be applied for the benefit of the poor of Rugby in such manner as the rector and churchwardens should in their uncontrolled discretion think best. The annual income of the charity amounts to £46 15s. 8d.

Judith Bucknill by will dated 20 January 1852 bequeathed to the rector and churchwardens of St. Andrew's, Rugby, £50, the interest to be applied for the relief of poor asthmatic people in the parish. The annual income of the charity amounts to £17s. 8d.

Sarah Worthington by will dated 10 May 1854 bequeathed to the same £50, in trust to appropriate the same for the benefit of the poor of the parish. By a codicil dated 7 February 1857 the testatrix bequeathed a further sum of £50 in trust for the benefit of the poor. The annual income of the charity amounts to £27s.

Mrs. W. Homer's Gift. It appears that in 1854 Mrs. W. Homer gave in trust to the rector and churchwardens £10 to be applied for the benefit of the poor of the parish. The annual income of the charity amounts to 5s. 4d.

John Pearson by will dated 27 January 1866 gave £200, the interest to be distributed annually on 24 November (being the testator's birthday), or as near thereto as can be, among the deserving and poor inhabitants of the parish. The annual income of the charity amounts to £5 6s. 4d.

Mary Christian Benn by will proved on 8 May 1869 bequeathed £400, to lay out the interest in the purchase of bread, coals, or blankets to be distributed on or about Christmas Day among the deserving and poor inhabitants of the parish. The annual income of the charity amounts to £10 12s. 4d.

Hannah Bucknill and Jane Bucknill by wills dated 18 May 1878 and 10 May 1879 respectively gave £250 each upon trust that the rector and churchwardens of St. Andrew's, Rugby, and the overseers and two of the guardians of the poor of the parish of Rugby should in December in every year lay out the interest in the purchase of flannel and coal and distribute the same in the first place amongst poor widows residing in the district of St. Andrew's and then among the most necessitous poor of the same district. The annual income of each charity amounts to £6 2s. 2d.

The Hospital of St. Cross. By an indenture dated 6 April 1882 Richard Henry Wood conveyed to the Earl of Denbigh and others certain land in the parish of Rugby for a Hospital to be erected thereon, and also an endowment fund of £10,000. Another indenture dated 27 July 1882 provides that the Institution should be called "The Hospital of the Holy Cross" and its objects should be the relief of such poor persons suffering from accident and all diseases not infectious or contagious who reside within the parish of Rugby and the surrounding neighbourhood. The charity, and all its endowments, are now regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 9 December 1910.

Rebecca Crowden Hipwell, who died in 1943, bequeathed to the rector of St. Andrew's, Rugby, £100, to apply the income as follows: to pay to the Devonshire

Royal Hospital and Buxton Bath Charity an annual subscription of not less than two guineas and to apply the residue either as a further subscription or gift to the same or any other institution of a like nature. The privileges in respect of such annual subscription to be for the benefit of persons residing within the Borough of Rugby. The annual income of the charity amounts to £3.

Unappropriated Balances Fund. In 1873 a sum of £148 12s. 7d., arising from unappropriated balances of offertory money in the parish church and on the income of the Endowed Charities for the poor of Rugby which could not be rateably allocated to such charities, was paid to the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds for investment. The annual income of the fund is £4 and is applied for the benefit of the poor.

Girls' Welcome Club. The Club Recreation Ground and Institute in Rugby, formerly constituting the endowment of this charity, were sold in 1937 and the net proceeds of sale invested. Trustees of the charity are appointed by Order of the Charity Commissioners. The annual income of the charity amounts to £72 11s. 10d.

Richard Fosterd. This parish participates in the charity of Richard Fosterd, otherwise Fosterd's Bridge Trust. For particulars of the charity see under parish of Newbold-upon-Avon. The annual income of the Rugby Branch of the charity amounts to £123 approximately.

## Holy Trinity:

John Allibone Langton by will dated 6 July 1915 gave to the rector and churchwardens of Rugby £200, the income to be applied in maintaining the family vault in the churchyard adjoining Holy Trinity Church, and to apply any income not required for such purpose towards the church expenses of Holy Trinity Church.

Charles Henry Fuller by a codicil dated 27 July 1926 to his will dated 1 September 1923 bequeathed to the rector of Rugby and the churchwardens of Holy Trinity Church, Rugby, £500, the income to be applied towards the upkeep of the church and in particular towards keeping in order the churchyard.

## St. Matthew:

Henrietta Eliza Bracken by will dated 12 January 1865 directed her executors to purchase an endowment of £10 per annum in favour of the minister and churchwardens of the district of St. Matthew, Rugby, towards the salary of a properly authorized scripture reader, or to the support of such agency for the spiritual good of the people of the district as the minister and churchwardens might determine. The present annual income of the charity amounts to £8 6s. 8d.

Jane Sandham by codicil dated 5 February 1890 to her will dated 5 November 1887 bequeathed £236 to the vicar and churchwardens of the parish or district of St. Matthew's, Rugby, to apply the interest to the fund for paying the salary of a curate. In case at any time there shall not be a curate or the interest shall not be required for his salary, then it shall be applied for the relief of the sick and needy parishioners of the parish or district. The annual income of the charity amounts to £7 10s. 8d.

Samuel Howard by will dated 29 November 1900 bequeathed £50 to the vicar and churchwardens of the church of St. Matthew, Rugby, the interest to be applied towards the maintenance of a curate for the parish. In the event of there being no curate, the

## A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

income to be applied towards the relief of the necessitous poor of the church. The annual income of the charity amounts to £1 10s.

The Rev. Henry Homer by will dated 22 January 1909 bequeathed to the vicar and churchwardens of St. Matthew, Rugby, £1,000, to be added by them to the endowment fund of the church of the parish.

John Cope by will dated 31 October 1911 gave to the vicar and churchwardens of the parish of St. Matthew, Rugby, £20, to be applied by them in augmentation of the endowment fund for the incumbency of the parish.

Elizabeth Sale by will dated 1 September 1919 gave £200 to the vicar and churchwardens of St. Matthew's Church, Rugby, for the endowment fund of the vicarage or for the augmentation of the living of the church of St. Matthew's, Rugby.

Alfred Over by will dated 7 November 1921 gave £50 to the endowment fund of St. Matthew's Church, Rugby.

Sarah Errington by will dated 9 November 1874 gave the residue of her estate to the vicar or incumbent and churchwardens of St. Matthew's Church, Rugby, the income to be applied in the purchase of coal or fuel to be distributed on 13 November annually amongst poor persons resident in the present district attached to such church. The annual income of the charity amounts to £38 8s. 8d.

George Charles Benn by will dated 31 August 1894 bequeathed to the vicar and churchwardens of St. Matthew's Church, Rugby, £1,000, the interest to be given away annually in coals or blankets to the deserving poor people of St. Matthew's parish as near about Christmas as might be convenient. The annual income of the charity amounts to £22 9s.

Rebecca Crowder Hipwell by her will, 1943, left to the vicar of the parish of St. Matthew, Rugby, £100, upon the same trusts declared in respect of the £100 bequeathed to the vicar of St. Andrew, Rugby, but for the benefit of persons residing within the parish of St. Matthew, Rugby.

The testatrix also bequeathed to the vicar of St. Matthew, Rugby, £200, the interest to be distributed among needy old men and women residing in the parish, and having no children living to look after them. The distribution to be made on 23 March in every year, or as near thereto as circumstances admit. The annual income of this charity amounts to £5 5s. 6d.

St. Marie's Hall. By a conveyance dated 19 August 1937 the property known as West Vale, 94 Dunchurch Road, Rugby, and adjoining land was settled upon trust to be used for the conservation and advancement of the Roman Catholic religion and for the enlightenment, education, and religious and moral benefit of members of the Roman Catholic religion in and around the Borough of Rugby.

### RYTON-ON-DUNSMORE

Acreeage: 2,275.

Population: 1911, 552; 1921, 614; 1931, 697.

Ryton-on-Dunsmore is a village and parish 4½ miles south-east from Coventry on the main London road, which here crosses the River Avon. The river forms most of the north and west boundaries of the parish, the lie of the land being from south-east (336 ft. above sea level) to 217 ft. at Ryton Bridge in the north-west corner. Ryton Wood covers several hundred acres on the south side of the parish, and there are other small plantations. 'The soil here is of a light sandy disposition, and beareth Rye best of any Grain',<sup>1</sup> but this crop, which gives the village its name, is now little grown in Warwickshire, and Ryton is not in the parts of the county where it is at all in evidence.<sup>2</sup> The parish is well served with main roads; in addition to the one from London to Birmingham there is the road from Coventry to Oxford, which leaves it at Ryton Bridge and runs south-east across the parish, and both these are crossed by the road from Warwick to Rugby. The village is mostly situated in the triangle formed by these three roads, its street running northwards to the Avon. There are a few timber-framed houses, of no great age. The nearest station is Brandon and Wolston on the Rugby-Birmingham section of the former L.M.S.R., 2½ miles away; there is no railway through the parish.

The inclosure of 300 acres of arable land by the prior of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem was reported by the Commission of 1517;<sup>3</sup> another 200 acres were put out of cultivation by Sir Thomas Dilke about a century later.<sup>4</sup> The parish was inclosed under an Act of 1760.<sup>5</sup>

A serious fire occurred in 1654, when at least 7 houses with their barns and other outbuildings were destroyed, representing £447 damage, besides more than £400 to houses of others 'of good ability' who were not eligible for relief.<sup>6</sup>

On the east of the parish, where the London road enters that of Stretton-on-Dunsmore, is Knightlow Hill, the site of the meeting place of the hundred. The custom of 'wroth silver', the collection by the agent of the Duke of Buccleuch, as lord of the hundred, of various moneys from the constituent parishes, is still observed annually on 11 November.<sup>7</sup>

RYTON was one of the villis given by MANOR Earl Leofric to Coventry Priory in 1043.<sup>8</sup>

But in Dugdale's words 'it seems, that the Monks chopt it quickly away, though it appears not how',<sup>9</sup> for by 1066 it was held by 'Alwin' (Ælfwine), and in 1086 by his son Turchil of Warwick, being then assessed at 3½ hides and including woodland half a league by 2 furlongs, and a mill worth 12s. The value had seriously decreased, from 100s. in 1066 to 60s. in 1086.<sup>10</sup>

The manor remained with Turchil's descendants, the Arden or Arderne family, for about 200 years.<sup>11</sup> In 1239 Thomas de Arderne received from Nicholas de Wythebroc, for a consideration of 20 marks silver and a palfrey, 300 acres of land, 40 of meadow, 80 of wood and a mill, and also a virgate of land and 10 acres of meadow.<sup>12</sup> He granted a life tenure of 3 virgates to his mother Eustacia in 1243,<sup>13</sup> and was still lord of Ryton in 1272.<sup>14</sup> In 1279 the demesne contained 3 carucates and a mill, and there were 3 bond tenants,

<sup>1</sup> Dugd. 46.  
<sup>2</sup> McPherson, *Warwick*. (Report of Land Utilization Survey), 711.

<sup>3</sup> Leadam, *Domesday of Incl.* 430, 649.

<sup>4</sup> S.P. Dom. Chas. I, vol. 257, no. 129.

<sup>5</sup> Private Acts 1 Geo. III, c. 28.

<sup>6</sup> *Warw. Co. Recs.* iii, 248.

<sup>7</sup> A description of the ceremony is given in Kelly's *Directory of Warwick*. See also above, pp. 1, 2.

<sup>8</sup> Dugdale, *Mon. Angl.* iii, 191.

<sup>9</sup> Dugd. 46.

<sup>10</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* i, 318.

<sup>11</sup> Feet of F. (Dug. Soc. xi), 299, 448, 544.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid. 501.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid. 615.

<sup>14</sup> *Cal. Ing. p.m.* ii, 78.



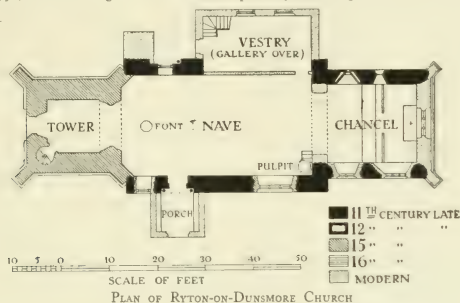
each with  $1\frac{1}{2}$  yardlands, also 15 freeholders with 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  yardlands, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$  acres and a rood.<sup>15</sup> At this time the Knights Hospitallers had 1 yardland held by 2 freeholders, and a mill. Three years later there was a lawsuit between Thomas de Arderne and the Hospitallers, which was settled by the former handing over 200 acres of land, 12 of meadow, 10 of wood and a mill.<sup>16</sup> In 1286 Thomas de Arderne received licence to alienate the whole manor to the Hospitallers,<sup>17</sup> and the prior of the order was returned as lord of Ryton in 1316.<sup>18</sup> The last tenant of the manor under the Hospitallers was Constance Benet, who had a 29-year lease, for £18, dating from 1533.<sup>19</sup> After the suppression of the order the manor remained with the Crown till 1550, when it was granted, to be held

family,<sup>20</sup> the descent being similar to that of Maxstoke in Hemlingford Hundred (q.v.).<sup>21</sup>

Siward de Arden, Turchil's son, granted the mill of Ryton to Thorney Abbey (Cams.).<sup>22</sup> This was confirmed to the abbey by Gregory IX in 1240,<sup>23</sup> and seems to have been attached to their manor of Sawbridge in Wolfhamcote.<sup>24</sup>

The church of **ST. LEONARD** is **CHURCH** situated on the north side of the main

Coventry-Northampton road, on a level site in the centre of a large, recently extended, churchyard. It consists of chancel, nave, west tower, vestry, and a south porch. It was built of red sandstone rubble with worked dressings late in the 11th century, probably consisting of a chancel and nave, and it was



PLAN OF RYTON-ON-DUNSMORE CHURCH

in chief for 36s. yearly, to John Dudley, Earl of Warwick.<sup>25</sup> After his attainder and execution the manor was leased for 21 years from June 1555 to John Manne.<sup>26</sup> Queen Mary in 1558 granted the manor to the revived order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, of which Sir Thomas Tresham was appointed prior,<sup>27</sup> but this was reversed on the accession of Elizabeth, the manor being granted to Ambrose Dudley, Earl of Warwick, and his heirs male in 1562.<sup>28</sup>

He died without surviving issue in 1590, and after another short interval in crown hands the manor was granted (1598) to Randolph Crew of Lincoln's Inn and Richard Cartwright of London, and their heirs.<sup>29</sup> The following year they sold it to Thomas Dilke.<sup>30</sup> He and his son Fisher Dilke were dealing with the manor in 1613,<sup>31</sup> and his grandson Thomas held it of the king as of the manor of East Greenwich at his death in 1639.<sup>32</sup> His successor was his half-brother William,<sup>33</sup> who with his wife Honor (Ward) dealt with it in 1663;<sup>34</sup> and the manor remained with the



DILKE. *Gules a lion party argent and or.*

apparently not until the 15th century that a west tower was added. A vestry with a gallery over was added in the 19th century, and more recently the south porch was rebuilt. The tower is a lofty and imposing structure, out of proportion to so small a church, and the presence of angle buttresses on its east side, which make a very awkward junction with the nave, suggests that it was intended to rebuild the body of the church on a similar scale. All the roofs are covered with modern tiles.

The east wall of the chancel has been entirely rebuilt in red sandstone ashlar with angle buttresses, splayed plinth, a weathered offset at sill level, and a window of three trefoil lights with a segmental arch. The north side is built of red sandstone rubble patched with ashlar, and in the centre there is a late-11th-century round-headed window with a large roll moulding and plain cushion capitals on detached shafts with moulded bases, the shafts, bases, and sill being modern restorations. A little to the west is a narrow 12th-century lancet window. The south side has been extensively patched with ashlar, but part of a blocked 11th-century window corresponding with the one on the north still remains. It is now lighted by a modern window of three trefoil lights with a square head and hoodmoulding, and by a 16th-century two-light, single-splay,

<sup>15</sup> Dugd. 46 (K.R. Misc. Bks. 15).

<sup>16</sup> Dugd. 46.

<sup>17</sup> Cal. Pat. 1281-92, p. 225.

<sup>18</sup> Feudal Aids, v, 177.

<sup>19</sup> Mon. Estates in Warwick. (Dugd. Soc. ii), 135.

<sup>20</sup> Cal. Pat. 1549-51, pp. 364-5.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid. 1554-6, p. 305.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid. 1557-8, p. 315.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid. 1560-3, p. 292.

<sup>24</sup> Pat. 40 Eliz. pt. 10.

<sup>25</sup> Dugd. 47, quoting Dilke family MSS.

<sup>26</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 11 Jas. I.

<sup>27</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), dxxxiii, 12.

<sup>28</sup> Visit. Warw. 1682-3 (Harl. Soc. xii), 42.

<sup>29</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Trin. 15 Chas. II.

<sup>30</sup> Recov. R. Mich. 9 Wm. III, ro. 38;

Feet of F. Warw. East. 12 Geo. II; ibid. Hil. 36 Geo. III; White, *Directory of Warw.* (1850), 676.

<sup>31</sup> F.C.H. Warw. iv, 139.

<sup>32</sup> Dugd. 46, quoting *Red. Book of Thorney*.

<sup>33</sup> Cal. Papal Letters, i, 187.

<sup>34</sup> Mon. Angl. ii, 611; Mon. Estates in Warwick. (Dugd. Soc. ii), 129.

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

square-headed window. The south wall of the nave has also been patched with ashlar. In the centre there is a blocked 11th-century semicircular-headed window and to the east a large 15th-century window of three trefoil lights with a four-centred arch of two splayed orders, the outer one hollow. The south door, of late-11th-century date, has a semicircular arch of two orders, the inner a square and the outer a large roll moulding with a flush reeded outer band. The arch is supported on detached shafts with slightly tapered capitals, splayed impost mouldings, and bases which are a reverse of the capitals. It is fitted with a 16th-century oak door of four panels, formed by applied hollow-splayed mouldings, hung on plain strap hinges. In front is a modern porch built of red brick with a tiled roof, and above it a modern lunette with a red brick arch. West of the porch a square single-light window has been roughly cut through the wall. On the north side there is an 11th-century doorway, similar to and nearly opposite the one on the south side, but with a plain tympanum and a simple scroll on the capitals. A massive modern buttress<sup>34a</sup> built over the west jamb has destroyed its shaft and capital; no bases to the shafts are visible, but they probably exist below the present ground level. The door opening has been built up to form a square window. Above the doorway is a modern lunette, as on the south side. The remainder of this wall is taken up by the 19th-century vestry.

The tower is divided by a moulded string-course into two stages with angle buttresses at all four corners rising in four weathered stages to the string-course at the base of a battlemented parapet with crocketed pinnacles and grotesque gargoyles at each corner. The west door, in the centre of the tower, has a four-centred arch with deep hollow-moulded splays continued down the jambs to a splayed stop. Above the door is a window of three cinquefoil lights and tracery, with similar mouldings and a hood-moulding with mask stops; it is a modern restoration, except for the jambs and hood-moulding. Above the window is a clock face. The belfry has windows with two cinquefoil lights of two splayed orders and hood-mouldings with mask stops; the lower halves on all four faces are blocked with ashlar, with louvres above. On the south side there are two loop-lights to the spiral staircase and a small rectangular light in the centre, which is repeated on the north face.

The chancel (19 ft. 2 in. by 16 ft. 4 in.) is paved with modern tiles, with one step to the chancel and two to the altar. The roof is modern, of the trussed rafter type, with semicircular ribs, and the walls, except the east one, are plastered. The modern window recess on the south side has a segmental-pointed arch, and the earlier window a segmental arch. On the north side the 11th-century window has a wide-splayed recess with a semicircular arch, and the lancet a wide splay with a pointed arch. The altar rails are 17th-century oak with turned balusters and a moulded rail, but the altar table is modern. On the south wall is a small brass with the following inscription to Moses Macham, minister of Ryton, who died 29 June 1712:

Lo here doth ly a shining light  
wrapped up in the shades of night  
the sheppard is took from his sheep  
but O would they his doctrine keep  
and practice the rules that he did give  
So shall ye Pastor and ye People live.

On the right of the inscription is engraved an elaborate lantern standing on a coffin, and beside it a skeleton holding to a tree. On the north wall is a mural tablet to Edward Bonham, died 1679. Fixed to the front of the benches are two carved tracery-headed panels, each of two trefoils, probably late-15th-century.

The inscription and group of six daughters, described by Dr. Thomas as the remains of the brass of Richard Wulmer (16th century), were sold by a former vicar and churchwardens and are in private hands.<sup>35</sup>

The nave (41 ft. by 21 ft.) has a four-centred vaulted plaster ceiling and below it are two 16th-century cambered tie-beams, the one to the east retaining a central carved boss, supported on curved brackets, with contemporary moulded wall-plates on both sides. The window on the east has a splayed recess with a four-centred arch. The chancel arch is modern, inserted in 1929. The tower arch is a lofty one of two orders supported on responds with moulded capitals to the inner order, the outer one continuing to the floor to a square stop. The walls are plastered.

The red-brick vestry with a gallery over was built in 1812;<sup>36</sup> at the same time the church was re-seated.

The tower (11 ft. by 11 ft.) is paved with brick and the walls are ashlar. In the south-west corner there is a narrow doorway to the tower staircase, with a four-centred chamfered arch. The window recess is splayed and has a pointed arch, the doorway a deep splay with a four-centred arch.

The pulpit, placed on the south side of the chancel arch, is octagonal, built up of 17th-century carved panels. The red sandstone font, which stands in front of the tower arch, is octagonal, reduced to a square shaft with splays, standing on a modern splayed base. It dates from early in the 12th century, and has a deep circular lead-lined basin.

There are three bells:<sup>37</sup> (1) recast by Mears in 1864; (2) by William Watts, c. 1595; (3) by John Masters, 1653.

The registers begin in 1538.

The church was granted in 1249 *AD POWSON* by the prior of Coventry to the dean and chapter of Lichfield as a prebend,<sup>38</sup> and was worth £10 in 1291.<sup>39</sup> In 1535 the rectory was worth £11 6s. 8d., with 20s. pension to the dean and chapter and 8s. to the archdeacon, the rector holding the prebendal stall.<sup>40</sup> He, as prebendary, continued to hold the patronage of the perpetual curacy till, under the Act of 1840,<sup>41</sup> it was conveyed to the Bishop of Worcester; it is now a vicarage in the gift of the Bishop of Coventry.

An augmentation of £11 6s. 8d. was granted in 1657 by the Trustees for the Maintenance of Ministers.<sup>42</sup>

Dilke's Charity. The Parliamentary *CHARITIES* Returns of 1786 state that — Dilke gave, by deed, £30, vested in the churchwardens, and producing 30s. a year. The endowment of

<sup>34a</sup> This buttress was built with stones from the north wall when it was demolished: *ex inf.* the Rev. James West.

<sup>35</sup> Mill Stephenson, *List of Mon. Brasses*, 527.

<sup>36</sup> It is said to have been originally used

for the school: Kelly, *Direct. of Warw.* (1936).

<sup>37</sup> Tilley and Walters, *Church Bells of Warw.* 209.

<sup>38</sup> Dugd. 47, quoting fine of quinz. St. John Bapt. 32 Hen. III (not printed by

Dugd. Soc.).

<sup>39</sup> *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 241.

<sup>40</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 69.

<sup>41</sup> 3 & 4 Vict. c. 113, s. 41.

<sup>42</sup> *Cal. S. F. Dom.* 1657-8, p. 242.

the charity now consists of an annual payment of this amount.

Thomas Bayes. It is stated in the printed Parliamentary Reports of the Former Commissioners for Inquiring Concerning Charities dated in 1834 that there is a close of land in Ryton called Poor's Meadow, said to have been left long ago by Thomas Bayes. The land was sold in 1932 and the proceeds of sale invested.

Mary Turner by will dated 24 September 1607 charged certain property in Solihull, with the annual payment of £3 6s. 8d. for the relief of the poor impotent and most needy people dwelling in the parishes of

Kenilworth, Stivichall, Baginton, Stoneleigh; Bubbenhall, Ryton, Woolston, Stretton, Marton, and Wappenbury: the sum of 6s. 8d. to be paid to the churchwardens and overseers of each parish for distribution in accordance with the directions contained in the will. The rent-charge was redeemed in 1923 in consideration of a sum of £133 6s. 8d. 2½% Consols, producing £3 6s. 8d. annually.

The total annual income of the above-mentioned charities amounts to £3 11s. 10d. which is given to the poor of the parish in bread. The trustees of the charities are appointed by the parish council.

## SHILTON

Acreage: 1,150 (1,486 since 1932).

Population: 1911, 371; 1921, 424; 1931, 516 (on enlarged area).

Shilton is a parish and village, on the Hinckley road 5½ miles north-east from Coventry. The boundaries are not marked by any prominent natural features, and the whole history of the parish is closely bound up with Ansty, ½ mile nearer Coventry on the main road, and Barnacle, a hamlet of Bulkington partly in this parish. The village lies centrally in the parish at about 350 ft. above sea-level and is a compact settlement, at the point where the important secondary road leaves the main road for Bulkington and Nuneaton, and minor roads diverge eastwards to Hopsford and Withybrook and westwards to Barnacle. The main line of the former L.M.S.R. from Rugby to Crewe runs diagonally across the parish and has a station at the village; the church is close to the railway and well seen from it. An Inclosure Act for 15½ yardlands, or 547 acres, was passed in 1772.<sup>1</sup> Shilton was probably the birthplace of Christopher St. German (?1460–1540), legal writer, whose handbook for law students, usually known as 'Doctor and Student', remained the chief text-book till the appearance of Blackstone's Commentaries.<sup>2</sup>

**SHILTON**, a 2-hide vill in Domesday **MANORS** Book, was then held by the Count of Meulan with Wallef, who had been a free tenant before 1066, under him.<sup>3</sup> It later became part of the estates of the earldom of Warwick, but evidence of its history is not plentiful. Shilton was at times closely connected with Barnacle in Bulkington and with Ansty, being held with the former as half a knight's fee of the Earl of Warwick by John 'Aygne' in 1315,<sup>4</sup> and was reckoned as one with both these places (*sunt una villa*) in the following year under the lordship of Henry le Irreis of Ansty.<sup>5</sup> By 1420 a sub-tenancy had been granted to the Beauchamp family of Holt (Worcs.), Sir John Beauchamp in that year holding Shilton and Barnacle of the heirs of Henry Dyve by service of half a knight's fee.<sup>6</sup> His heir was his daughter Margaret, then wife of John Pauncfote, but there is no further evidence of the descent of the manor till 1513, when Ralph Swillington, Recorder of Coventry, and Elizabeth his wife made a settlement of it.<sup>7</sup> Elizabeth subsequently married Thomas Essex,<sup>8</sup> and Edward Essex

was vouchee in a recovery of 1559.<sup>9</sup> By 1730 there were two manors or lordships, the more important in the hands of the Dean and Canons of Windsor<sup>10</sup> (who also held Ansty), who were still lords in 1850;<sup>11</sup> the other lordship was in the hands of Henry Neale of Allesley.<sup>12</sup> His descendants held it for more than a century.<sup>13</sup> The manorial rights in 1932 were recorded as divided between the Duke of Buccleuch and Mr. G. E. Jarvis.<sup>14</sup>

The manor of **BARNACLE HALL** extended into this parish and in 1388–9 was held of John Dyve as of his manor of Deddington (Oxon.).<sup>15</sup> For further details see the descent of this manor in Bulkington.

The church of **ST. ANDREW** is **CHURCH** situated on a rise in the centre of the village, standing in a small churchyard. It dates from the late 13th century, but was rebuilt in the 14th and again in the 15th century, when the tower was built. In 1865 an outer north aisle was added under the supervision of Sir Gilbert Scott, the chancel being restored at the same time. Owing to the slope of the ground and the proximity of the main road, a south aisle was impracticable. It consists of a chancel, nave, north and outer north aisles, chapel, and a south porch.

The chancel is built of light-coloured sandstone with diagonal buttresses at the angles; it has a plinth of one spay and a tiled roof. It is lighted on the east by a pointed traceried window of three trefoil lights with a hood-mould; on the south by a square-headed window of two trefoil lights and a lancet of two splayed orders; and on the north by two similar windows. Between the windows on the north side there is a blocked pointed doorway of two splayed orders, restored, but retaining its original hood-mould with mask stops. The east wall has been entirely rebuilt, the north refaced and the south patched with red sandstone. The nave wall is divided into three bays by buttresses, the centre bay occupied by the porch. It is built of squared and coursed sandstone, extensively patched, and has a battlemented parapet with restored crocketed pinnacles at each end and one central. It is lighted by a pointed traceried window of two cinquefoil lights in each of the end bays, and by two square-headed windows of two cinquefoil lights high up in the wall, one

<sup>1</sup> Slater, *Engl. Peasantry and Encl.* 303.

<sup>2</sup> *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

<sup>3</sup> *V.C.H. Warwick* i, 315.

<sup>4</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, 615 (p. 405). The name of the tenant is 'Aygne' in the original return, but it is possible that this is a misreading from 'Dyve' in the original draft. See note 6 below.

<sup>5</sup> *Feudal Antiq.* v, 176.

<sup>6</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 8 Hen. V, 70.

<sup>7</sup> Feet of F. Div. Cos. East. 4–5 Hen.

VIII.

<sup>8</sup> Inscription on Swillington monument in Coventry Cathedral, quoted in Dugd. 167. The arms of Essex are in a window of Shilton church.

<sup>9</sup> *Recov. R. Mich.* 1–2 Eliz. ro. 807.

<sup>10</sup> Dugd. 65.

<sup>11</sup> White, *Directory of Warwicks.*

<sup>12</sup> Dugd. 65.

<sup>13</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations. Shire Hall, Warwick; *Recov. R. Trin.* 22 Geo. III, ro. 295; East. 1 Wm. IV, ro. 46.

<sup>14</sup> P.R.O. List, 1932.

<sup>15</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 12 Ric. II, 91.

## A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

on each side of the porch. The pointed windows have hood-moulds with head stops; the square have hoods without stops; all are partly restored. The porch is timber-framed, with its original moulded posts and head forming the entrance under a half-timbered gable. The sides are formed of open traceried panels with modern matchboarding below. It is roofed with tiles, is paved with stone, and has a stone seat on both sides. The doorway has a wave-moulded pointed arch, the mouldings prolonged to splayed stops; its hood-mould is without stops.

The east end of the north aisle is lighted by a pointed traceried window of three trefoil lights with a hood-mould, the outer aisle by a replica of it. The 19th-century north wall is partly constructed of stones from the original wall, including some from the door, window, and buttresses. It is lighted towards the east by a square-headed window of two trefoil lights, re-using an original head, and has a wave-moulded pointed doorway towards the west, partly original re-used. The chapel, which has a rebuilt diagonal buttress, is lighted on the north by a pointed traceried window of two cinquefoil lights with a hood-mould, all much restored. Both aisles have low-pitched lead-covered roofs, and in the 19th century a battlemented parapet, to correspond with the south side, was added.

The tower, which has a moulded plinth, rises in three stages, the upper stage diminished by a weathered offset and terminating in a battlemented parapet with crocketed finials at each angle. There are diagonal buttresses at each angle; the north-east one, which contains a circular stair to the ringing chamber, is at right angles to a point half-way up the second stage, where it becomes diagonal. The west door has a four-centred arch of one splay under a square head and sunk spandrels, and above, in a deep splay, a pointed three-light window, centre light pointed, the outer cinquefoil. It is partly restored and has a hood-mould with return ends. On the north there is a loop-light to the ringing chamber and two to the tower staircase; on the south there is a clock dial. The belfry, on each face, has pointed, transomed, traceried windows of two trefoil lights, set in deep splays with hood-moulds.

The chancel (28 ft. by 17 ft. 1 in.) has a modern tiled floor with three steps to a modern altar. The walls are plastered and decorated with 19th-century paintings of vine scrolls, texts, angels, and a figure of St. Andrew, all faded and discoloured. The organ is placed against the north wall between the two windows. In the south wall at the east end there is a piscina with an arch of two splays and a circular basin. Both lancets and the east windows have wide splayed reveals with pointed rear-arches, the others have square heads. The roof is matchboarded on the underside. With the exception of the chancel all the walls are unplastered.

The nave (40 ft. 4 in. by 16 ft.) has an open low-pitched roof of four bays with moulded members, the wall-plate moulded and battlemented. Each of the beams has a carved boss in the centre and curved brackets resting on stone corbels, probably early 16th century, restored. At the east end of the south wall there is an unusual piscina, it has an ogee head to the nave and another, its head slightly lower, in the splayed reveal of the window, which has a trefoil-headed panel, leaving a small shaft to support the angle;

the basin has been mutilated. The arcade consists of three bays of pointed arches of two splayed orders with hood-moulds, on octagonal pillars with moulded capitals and splayed bases and at the east end on a mutilated corbel, at the other end on a half-octagonal respond against an octagonal pillar which forms the pillar for the chapel arch; the latter has two splayed orders on the nave side, and three on the other; it is supported on half-octagonal responds, one against the pillar, the other against the wall. The chancel arch has been destroyed and replaced by a modern roof truss. The tower arch is of two orders, the inner moulded, the outer a splay, the inner has a pointed arch, the outer on the nave side is segmental-pointed. The two windows high up have square heads to deep recesses, the two lower pointed rear-arches with hood-moulds and head-stops; the doorway is stop-chamfered segmental-pointed. Fixed in a modern barrier to the chancel there are five carved traceried panels, probably late 15th century. The pulpit, placed to the north of the chancel, is a modern one of oak with carved traceried panels, on a stone base. The font, standing in the north-west angle, is a modern one of red sandstone, octagonal, with quatrefoil panels on an octagonal stem, the lead-lined basin supported on carved female heads at each corner.

Two memorial slabs, to Sir Roger Feilding of Barnacle Hall and his nephew Basil, a J.P. in the reign of Charles II, were removed from the church in 1866 to pave the porch. They had been obliterated by 1933, when the porch was repaired with floor-slabs from the Guest House of the monastery at Coventry.<sup>15a</sup>

The aisle (29 ft. 3 in. by 8 ft. 10 in.) has a lean-to roof with moulded beams and purlins, contemporary with the nave roof; the rafters and wall-plates have been renewed. The arch to the chapel is pointed, of two splayed orders continued as responds to splayed bases on square pedestals.

The chapel (8 ft. 7 in. by 8 ft.) at the west end of the nave has a modern lean-to roof.

The outer aisle (28 ft. 8 in. by 12 ft.) has a king-post roof of low pitch with moulded members. The arcade of three bays is a copy of the original in the aisle, but with moulded bases instead of splayed and one pillar circular instead of octagonal. The western bay has been enclosed by an oak screen to form a vestry.

The tower (9 ft. by 9 ft.) window and doorway both have four-centred rear-arches; and in the north-east angle is a doorway to the tower staircase with a four-centred head, fitted with its original oak door of two vertical panels. The staircase stops at the ringing chamber, the belfry being reached by a ladder.

In the upper nave window to the east there are two late-16th-century heraldic shields of coloured glass: (1) Azure a chevron ermine between three eaglets argent (for Essex). (2) Essex impaling sable a chevron argent between three crescents ermine (for Babthorpe).<sup>16</sup>

The plate includes a silver gilt chalice and cover of 1618.

There were four bells: (1 and 2) by Edward Arnold of Leicester, 1795; (3) by Newcombe, 1603; (4) by John Greene of Worcester, 1614.<sup>17</sup> In 1925 all of these, except no. 2, were recast and two more added by Gillett and Johnstone.

The registers commence in 1695.

<sup>15a</sup> *Ex inf.* the Rev. Harold Smith, vicar.  
<sup>16</sup> Presumably commemorating Thomas

Essex (d. 1500) who married Elizabeth daughter and heir of William Babthorpe.

<sup>17</sup> Tilley and Walters, *Church Bells of Warwick*, 213.





RYTON-ON-DUNSMORE CHURCH, 17182



SHILTON CHURCH, 171820



LOWER SHUCKBURGH CHURCH, c. 1820



UPPER SHUCKBURGH CHURCH, c. 1820

Shilton was originally a chapelry of *ADFOU*SON Bulkington, and in the possession of Leicester Abbey by the gift of Roger de Waterville, but was with Ansty transferred to Coventry Priory at an early date in return for an annual payment of £10;<sup>18</sup> it was among the chapels 'restored' to the priory by Earl Ranulf between 1140 and 1153.<sup>19</sup> About 1410 it was put on record that the chapels of Ansty and Shilton were never members of St. Michael's, Coventry, but were a rectory in themselves, Ansty being the principal chapel and Shilton dependent thereon; parishioners had to be buried at the mother church of St. Mary, Coventry.<sup>20</sup> In 1535 it was served by a stipendiary priest, removable at the will of the prior, who received the small tithes and minor offerings, estimated at £5 a year.<sup>21</sup> It remained a curacy till the late 19th century,<sup>22</sup> but is now combined with Ansty as a vicarage. The patronage has been with the Crown since the Reformation, and is now exercised by the Lord Chancellor.

John Grace by will in 1715 gave *CHARITIES* £30 to the poor of the parish.

The Waste Land, otherwise The Town Ley. By an Act for inclosing the common fields of this parish a piece of land containing 3 r. 16 p. was awarded unto and for the poor inhabitants for the purpose only of cutting furze thereon.

The above-mentioned charities are regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 12 June 1906 under the title of the Eleemosynary Charity. The scheme appoints a body of trustees to administer the annual income, amounting to 17s. 8d., for the benefit of the poor of the parish.

William Rainbow by will dated 3 January 1916 bequeathed £80, the dividends thereon to be distributed in equal proportions on St. Thomas's Day among all persons resident in the parish who shall be in receipt of Old Age Pensions under any Act of Parliament for the time being in force.

## UPPER AND LOWER SHUCKBURGH

### *Upper Shuckburgh*

Acreage: 1,169.

Population: 1911, 51; 1921, 40; 1931, 30.

### *Lower Shuckburgh*

Acreage: 985.

Population: 1911, 102; 1921, 103; 1931, 77.

Upper and Lower Shuckburgh are small parishes on the Northamptonshire border half-way between Southam and Daventry, each being about 5 miles distant. The main road between these towns runs through Lower Shuckburgh, as does also the Oxford Canal, which has a wharf by the bridge carrying the main road. The River Leam divides Upper Shuckburgh from Staverton (Northants.) for a short distance, and the Great Central main line of the former L.N.E.R. crosses the eastern corner of this parish. The ground slopes steeply from south to north, Beacon Hill in Upper Shuckburgh reaching 678 ft. as compared with slightly under 300 ft. on the northern edge of Lower Shuckburgh. The beacon which gave the hill its name was decayed early in the 17th century, and in 1640 Richard Walter, one of the chief constables of Knightlow Hundred, was reimbursed £8 10s. by the county for providing a new one.<sup>1</sup>

The Shuckburghs were early inclosed parishes; at the inquisition of 1517 the Prioreess of Wroxall was stated to have inclosed 30 acres of land in Upper Shuckburgh, and Thomas Catesby 1 messuage and 20 acres, and Thomas Shuckborough 1 messuage and 14 acres of land in Lower Shuckburgh;<sup>2</sup> the last-named also inclosed 40 acres of land, with 2 messuages, according to the inquisition of 1518,<sup>3</sup> and was alleged to intend to lay the whole township to pasture.<sup>4</sup> A general Inclosure Act for 880 acres of Shuckburgh Fields was passed in 1778.<sup>5</sup> The resulting depopulation has been very considerable, the present figure of 107

for the two parishes being only half the highest recorded total (213 in 1821),<sup>6</sup> and the number of houses stated as existing in 1730, 10 in Upper and 39 in Lower Shuckburgh,<sup>7</sup> implies a still larger population at that date.

Much of Upper Shuckburgh parish is taken up by the park and grounds of Shuckburgh Hall, the seat of the family of that name. The layout was considerably changed in the early 19th century, after the place had acquired notoriety through the murder of a daughter of the house by her admirer, who afterwards committed suicide.<sup>8</sup>

While Upper Shuckburgh was always in Knightlow Hundred, Lower Shuckburgh was in Kingston Hundred, but the two are here treated together as they have always been intimately connected. There was some uncertainty about the boundary between the two parishes in 1637, when it was stated that some houses of Upper Shuckburgh village were in Lower Shuckburgh parish and vice versa. It was agreed that the existing system of each village maintaining its own poor regardless of parish boundaries should continue.<sup>9</sup>

Celia Fiennes passed through on her way from Warwick to Daventry in 1697.<sup>10</sup> 'Nether Shuzar' she found 'a sad village, we could have no entertainment', but Sir Charles Shuckburgh came to the rescue and entertained her at the Hall, which she considered 'very handsome built of brick and stone' and (a little ungrammatically) 'all things were very well as any private Gentleman has whatever'. She noted that the deer were so tame as to come up to the courtyard gate: Sir Charles asked one of his daughters to give Celia a souvenir 'a Curiosity they dig up in most part of the hill thereabout, they call them Arms its just like Mulletts that they have in an Eschuteon to difference the third son from the first and second in a family' (apparently a fossilized starfish).

<sup>18</sup> Nichols, *Leics.* i, 284, quoting Laud MS. H. 72 (Bodl. Lib.), fol. 128.

<sup>19</sup> *Cal. Chart. R. v.* 102.

<sup>20</sup> Exch. K.R. Misc. Bks. 21, fol. 55 v.

<sup>21</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 60.

<sup>22</sup> In 1725 it was stated that Daniel Slater, vicar of Ansty and chaplain of Shilton, had no presentation to the vicarage of Shilton 'it being no vicarage': Exch. Dep. by Com. Misc. 12 Geo. I, 10.

<sup>1</sup> *Warw. Co. Records*, ii, 51.

<sup>2</sup> *Leadam Domesday* (f. Ind.) 410-11.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.* 653.

<sup>4</sup> Early Chan. Proc. fol. 445, no. 51.

<sup>5</sup> Slater, *Engl. Peasantry and Inclos.* 301.

<sup>6</sup> *V.G.H. Warw.* ii, 188, 191.

<sup>7</sup> Dugd. ii, 514.

<sup>8</sup> See West, *Directory of Warw.*

(1830), 751.

<sup>9</sup> *Warw. Co. Records*, i, 261; ii, 2.

<sup>10</sup> *The Journals of Celia Fiennes*, ed. Morris, 117-18. Dugdale (1732) refers to 'those little stones called *Astraiter*, which are very like a Mullet, and frequently found in the plowed fields hereabouts', and suggests that the families of Danvers and Shuckburgh may have derived the molets in their coats of arms therefrom.

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

Among place-names found in ancient deeds are le Fallyndedoune,<sup>11</sup> Colinscroft,<sup>12</sup> Waterlayres,<sup>13</sup> and Tappercrofte.<sup>14</sup>

In 1086 the Count of Meulan held *MANORS* 4 hides in (*UPPER*) *SHUCKBURGH*, and Herleuin of him; and Alwin held half a virgate of Turchil of Warwick. In the time of Edward the Confessor Lewin and Ulwin respectively had held these estates freely.<sup>15</sup> Like so many estates of these two chief tenants in Domesday, Shuckburgh passed to the Earl of Warwick, from whom in 1166 Robert de Alvers held 3 knights' fees in Warwickshire *de vetero feoffamento*.<sup>16</sup> That these fees included Upper Shuckburgh is proved by the confirmation by Robert, about 1150,<sup>17</sup> of a grant by his tenant Robert 'de Succheberga' to the nunnery of Wroxall of the church, 4 virgates, 20 acres of land called Hunger Hill, and a croft in Shuckburgh.<sup>18</sup> This grant was confirmed by Roger, Earl of Warwick,<sup>19</sup> who died in 1153. In 1236 the tenants of the Earl of Warwick were Osbert, who held three parts of a knight's fee, and Oliver (one-twentieth part of a knight's fee);<sup>20</sup> and in 1242 William de Cantilupe held three parts of a knight's fee of Eustace de Mortun, who held of Guy son of Robert, and he of Guy de Dive, who held of the Earl of Warwick.<sup>21</sup> Two parts of a knight's fee were held of the Earl of Warwick in 1316 by John Eyre,<sup>22</sup> and in 1437 a similar portion by Joan, widow of William Beauchamp, Lord of Bergavenny, when it is described as the manor of Shuckburgh late of John Dyve and John Shuckburgh and was held of Joan by Guy de Mancetter.<sup>23</sup> William Beauchamp was the cousin (son of a sister of the grandmother) of John Hastings (died 1389),<sup>24</sup> whose family had acquired an intermediate tenancy in Shuckburgh by the marriage of Henry de Hastings with Joan de Cantilupe, the elder sister of George de Cantilupe (died 1273).<sup>25</sup> Of the three parts of a knight's fee held by William in 1242, one-quarter of a fee was held of his son George by William de Shuckburgh in 1273.<sup>26</sup> In 1313 the holding, which had come to John de Hastings the elder, was reckoned as one knight's fee, and described as that held by Simon de Shuckburgh and Ralph Chater;<sup>27</sup> these, however, are the names of the Prior of Coventry's tenants in 1242 (see below) and there seems to be some confusion. The yearly value of this fee was stated as £20 in the order to John Abel, the escheator, to deliver it to Isabel, John Hastings's widow, in the same year.<sup>28</sup> It was again reckoned as one fee in 1375, held of John Hastings, 12th Earl of Pembroke, by [the heirs of] Simon de Shuckburgh and Ralph Chater,<sup>29</sup> and in 1397 it was ordered to be

delivered by the escheator to Philippa, widow of Richard, Earl of Arundel,<sup>30</sup> whose previous husband had been John, 13th Earl of Pembroke.<sup>31</sup> The last mention of the Bergavenny connexion is in 1561, when Thomas Shuckburgh, who died the previous year, was said to have held the manor of Over Shuckburgh of Lord Bergavenny.<sup>32</sup>

During the anarchy of Stephen's reign Robert de Shuckburgh's son William, who was a knight, was killed in battle. Whereupon Warin de Walcote, 'a knight errant', who had fallen in love with Robert's daughter Isabel, came with armed force and carried her off against her will. When Henry II succeeded and enforced peace, Warin, having no income except from robbery, continued his evil course until he was caught and executed. Isabel, who had had by him an illegitimate son Warin, returned home and married William (de Budebroc),<sup>33</sup> by whom she had a son Henry de Shuckburgh.<sup>34</sup> Robert, who, as already mentioned, held the fee under Robert de Alvers, left two other daughters—one being the mother of William de Leminton, the other of Robert de Shuckburgh—and his lands were divided between the sons of the three.<sup>35</sup> William de Leminton left two daughters, of whom Maud was in 1246 wife of Ralph Chater,<sup>36</sup> who shared the fee with Simon de Shuckburgh in 1242. The pedigree of the Shuckburgh family in its early generations is obscure.<sup>37</sup> In 1202 William de Suckeborg was granted  $\frac{3}{4}$  virgate of land in Shuckburgh by Osbert son of Simon.<sup>38</sup> William and Osbert de Shuckburgh, the latter perhaps the Osbert holding three parts of a knight's fee in 1236,<sup>39</sup> were witnesses to a feoffment.<sup>40</sup> In the early 14th century John de Shuckburgh was a coroner for the county of Warwick.<sup>41</sup> In 1347 John de Shuckburgh held a third part of a knight's fee of the Earl of Pembroke,<sup>42</sup> and in 1400 another John, described as lord of Shuckburgh, his brother Thomas, and others made a grant of land in Burycote.<sup>43</sup> They were collectors of taxes in Warwickshire in 1404.<sup>44</sup> In 1431–2 John Shuckburgh was stated to hold a manor by the service of a quarter of a knight's fee.<sup>45</sup> William Shuckburgh was appointed to collect a subsidy in Warwickshire in 1428<sup>46</sup> and 1432,<sup>47</sup> and at his death in 1433 was a coroner for the county.<sup>48</sup> In the reign of Henry VII Thomas Shuckburgh was Justice of the Peace from 1502 onwards<sup>49</sup> and commissioner for jail delivery in 1503<sup>50</sup> and 1505.<sup>51</sup>



SHUCKBURGH. *Argent a chevron between three molets sable.*

<sup>11</sup> *Cat. Anct. Deeds*, iii, 76 (A 4517).

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.* iii, 259 (A 6063).

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.* iv, 59 (A 6601).

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.* v, 243 (A 12107).

<sup>15</sup> *P.C.H. Warr.* i, 314, 322.

<sup>16</sup> *Red Book of Exch.* (Rolls Ser.), 326.

<sup>17</sup> *P.C.H. Warr.* ii, 71.

<sup>18</sup> *Madox, Formulæ*, lxxvii.

<sup>19</sup> *Cal. Chari.* R. iv, 65.

<sup>20</sup> *Book of Fees*, 507, 508. <sup>21</sup> *Ibid.* 958.

<sup>22</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, 615 (p. 405).

<sup>23</sup> In a nearly contemporary list of fees John Ayre holds two-thirds and the Priores of Wroxall the other one-third of the fee: Add. MS. 28024, fol. 102 v.

<sup>24</sup> *Cal. Close*, 1435–41, p. 140.

<sup>25</sup> *G. E. C. Compl. Peerage*, 2nd ed. i, 24.

<sup>26</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ii, 17 (p. 20).

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.* v, 412 (p. 234). The Chaters appear to have been a local family, as in 1332 Richard Chater was a taxpayer in Lower, and Thomas Chater in Upper Shuckburgh (*Lay Subs. R.* (Dugd. Soc.), 27, 29). Cf. Thomas Chate in 1305 (*Cal. Inq. p.m.* iv, 316), and William Catre in 1204 (*Curia Regis R.* iii, 161).

<sup>29</sup> *Cal. Close*, 1313–18, p. 27.

<sup>30</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 49 Edw. III, pt. 1, no. 70.

<sup>31</sup> *Cal. Close*, 1396–9, p. 180.

<sup>32</sup> *G. E. C. Compl. Peerage* (2nd ed. i), 245.

<sup>33</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cxxxi, 197.

<sup>34</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xi), 298.

<sup>35</sup> *Roll of Justices in Eyre ... in Warw.* (Selden Soc.), 390.

<sup>36</sup> *Curia Regis R.* ix, 325.

<sup>37</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xi), 670.

<sup>38</sup> For a detailed pedigree of Shuckburgh see *Misc. Gen. et Her.* (2nd ser.), iii, 317–19, 352–9; the generations before the middle of the 14th century appear to be mere guesses.

<sup>39</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xi), 108.

<sup>40</sup> *Book of Fees*, 507–8.

<sup>41</sup> *Cat. Anct. Deeds*, v, A. 13419.

<sup>42</sup> *Cal. Close*, 1327–30, pp. 190, 313.

<sup>43</sup> *Dugd.* 309, quoting MSS. of S. Clarke.

<sup>44</sup> *Cat. Anct. Deeds*, i, B. 833.

<sup>45</sup> *Cal. Fine R.* xii, 284, 292.

<sup>46</sup> *Dugd.* 309, quoting Memo. R. 10 Hen. VI.

<sup>47</sup> *Cal. Close*, 1429–35, p. 220.

<sup>48</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1494–1509, p. 663.

<sup>49</sup> *Ibid.* p. 359. <sup>50</sup> *Ibid.* p. 456.



Richard Shuckburgh (1606-56) was M.P. for Warwickshire;<sup>52</sup> he was knighted by Charles I and fought at the battle of Edge Hill, and after defending his ancestral seat against the Parliamentary troops was taken prisoner, having to compound heavily for his liberty.<sup>53</sup> His son John was created a baronet in 1660 by Charles II in recognition of his father's services,<sup>54</sup> and the family estates have descended to Sir Charles Gerald Stewky Shuckburgh, the 12th baronet.

In 1353 Margaret, widow of Richard Hastang and heiress of the Dyve family who had been immediate sub-tenants of the Earl of Warwick in 1242, granted her manor in Shuckburgh to William Catesby and John his son.<sup>55</sup> At the same time John Beauchamp of Holt and his wife Joan (Fitz Wyth), heiress of the Guy son of Robert who was another of the mesne tenants in 1242, also released their rights. John de Catesby held manorial courts in 1398,<sup>56</sup> and his widow Emma, her son, and their heirs were granted free warren in their demesne lands in Shuckburgh and elsewhere in 1412.<sup>57</sup> The Catesbys were also lords of Wavers Marston in Bickenhill, and this estate in Shuckburgh was passed by Richard Collyng of Merston in 1540 to Thomas Shuckburgh.<sup>58</sup>

Besides the estate of Wroxall Nunnery mentioned above, other religious houses held portions of land in Shuckburgh. Between 1155 and 1170 Osbert de Leminton granted 1 bovate to Leicester Abbey,<sup>59</sup> which was fairly soon leased by that house to Thomas son of Oliver de Shuckburgh and his heirs at an annual rent of 9s., reduced in the late 15th century to 2s.<sup>60</sup> In 1221 William de Leminton had a life tenancy from the abbot of Leicester of  $\frac{1}{2}$  virgate.<sup>61</sup>

Coventry Cathedral Priory, which held the adjoining manor of Priors Marston, had lands in Shuckburgh from an early date; in 1236 half a knight's fee was held of the prior by Joan sister of Alice de Harecurt,<sup>62</sup> and in 1242 two half-fees, one by Simon de Shuckburgh and the other by Ralph Chater.<sup>63</sup> Simon's portion seems to have passed to Thomas Oliver, who held 7 virgates in 1279.<sup>64</sup> John Oliver afterwards alienated the half-fee to William Passenham, who in 1345 with the king's licence<sup>65</sup> gave it to the priory, including a messuage in Lower Shuckburgh, and a plot of land called Southalfethemore on either side of the Rugge-way.<sup>66</sup> The other half-fee, comprising 8 virgates, was held in 1279 by William Chater,<sup>67</sup> and about 1410 by John Chater.<sup>68</sup> He and his tenants had to attend the courts leet at Priors Marston; and the two yearly great leets there had also to be attended by all John Catesby's tenants in Upper and Lower Shuckburgh.<sup>69</sup>

The Wroxall lands were granted after the Dissolution to Sir John Williams,<sup>70</sup> and those of Coventry Priory, in the tenure of Richard Hill, to Williams and Anthony Stringer;<sup>71</sup> they were alienated in 1541<sup>72</sup> and 1547<sup>73</sup> respectively to Thomas Shuckburgh, whose

family was already in occupation of the Leicester Abbey holding. John Shuckburgh, Thomas's grandson, and his wife Margery leased the manors of Over and Nether Shuckburgh in 1628 to Walter Hanslappe and William Masters,<sup>74</sup> and settled them on his son Richard on marriage.<sup>75</sup> Richard's son John, the 1st baronet, was vouchee in a recovery of the manors in 1656.<sup>76</sup> They remain in possession of the family.

At the Domesday Survey Richard the Forester held  $\frac{1}{2}$  hide in [LOWER] SHUCKBURGH, which in the time of King Edward had been held freely by Edric.<sup>77</sup> This holding is described in the *Book of Fees* as one of 3 virgates, worth 4 marks annually.<sup>78</sup> It descended from Richard the Forester, or Cheven, through William Crok to Robert de Broc, who enfeoffed Roger de Bentley of the whole,<sup>79</sup> and in 1300 John de Bentley held 1 hide of Richard de Loges, grandson of Robert de Broc.<sup>80</sup> In 1316 Lower Shuckburgh was reckoned as a hamlet of Weston in Long Compton, under the overlordship of the Prior of Coventry.<sup>81</sup> William de Bentley in 1363 granted his lands in Shuckburgh to John Catesby.<sup>82</sup> Lower Shuckburgh had already passed into the hands of the Shuckburghs by 1428, when it was assessed at one-third of a knight's fee, lately in the hands of John de Shuckburgh;<sup>83</sup> and in 1514 Sir Thomas Cheyne held this manor of Thomas Shuckburgh.<sup>84</sup> From 1560, when Thomas Shuckburgh died seised of Nether as well as Over Shuckburgh,<sup>85</sup> its history is as that of Upper Shuckburgh.

The church of ST. JOHN THE CHURCHES BAPTIST,<sup>85a</sup> Upper Shuckburgh, is situated in the park of Shuckburgh Hall on the south side of the Southam-Daventry road, and stands on a knoll, a little south of the Hall, surrounded by a small churchyard in which there are cedar trees of great size. The church, except the base of the tower, has been completely rebuilt within recent times and consists of a chancel, nave, north and south chapels, tower, and a north porch. It is built of roughly coursed sandstone rubble with worked dressings and the roofs are tiled. Some old materials were re-used in building the porch, which has a pointed-arch entrance with a deep moulded splay and hood-mould. The doorway has a pointed arch concealed by a wooden door frame. Built into a recess in the north wall of the north chapel there is an infant's coffin lid of the 14th century, carved with a floriated cross; and in a similar position in the south chapel a rectangular panel carved with a skull, cross bones, and hour-glass; above, in the gable there is a similar panel, probably early-18th-century. The tower rises in three stages, the lower stage 13th-century, the upper stages rebuilt in the 18th century, with a plain parapet and pinnacles at each corner. It is lighted by a tall, partly restored lancet window on the west and has a clock face on the north. The belfry windows have pointed arches with

<sup>52</sup> *Misc. Gen. et Her.* (2nd ser.), iii, 353.

<sup>53</sup> Dugd. 309.

<sup>54</sup> *Ibid.* 310.

<sup>55</sup> *Cat. Anct. Doms*, iv, A. 8171.

<sup>56</sup> *Cal. Chate.* 1306-9, p. 341.

<sup>57</sup> *Cal. Chart. R.* v, 447.

<sup>58</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Trin. 32 Hen. VIII.

<sup>59</sup> *Cal. Chart. R.* iii, 381.

<sup>60</sup> Dugd. 309; Nichols, *Leics.* i, 280.

<sup>61</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xi), 295.

<sup>62</sup> *Book of Fees*, 583.

<sup>63</sup> *Ibid.* 654.

<sup>64</sup> Dugd. 308.

<sup>65</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1343-5, p. 558. Cf. *Ibid.*

1348-50, p. 326.

<sup>66</sup> *Exch. Ac. R. Misc. Bks.* 21, fol. 231.

<sup>67</sup> *Ibid.* 15, fol. 79.

<sup>68</sup> *Ibid.* 21, fol. 231.

<sup>69</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>70</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xvi, 779 (21).

<sup>71</sup> *Ibid.* xviii (1), 226 (79).

<sup>72</sup> *Ibid.* xvi, 878 (39).

<sup>73</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1547-8, p. 227.

<sup>74</sup> Feet of F. Div. Cos. Hil. 3 Chas. I.

<sup>75</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cccclxvi.

<sup>76</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>77</sup> *Recov. R. Mich.* 1656, ro. 153.

<sup>78</sup> *J.C.H. Warr.* i, 342.

<sup>79</sup> *Book of Fees*, 1277.

<sup>80</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* iii, 593 (p. 446);

Dugd. 473, 514.

<sup>81</sup> *Feudal Aids*, vi, 174.

<sup>82</sup> Dugd. 514, quoting 'autog. penes

S.A. equar'.

<sup>83</sup> *Feudal Aids*, vi, 193.

<sup>84</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), xxix, 21.

<sup>85</sup> *Ibid.* (Ser. 2), cxxxi, 197.

<sup>85a</sup> The full invocation is now given as St. John the Baptist in the Wilderness: *ex inf.* the Rev. C. P. Powell. This seems to be a quite recent innovation.

## A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

two trefoil lights and a pierced cinquefoil, the arches supported on attached shafts with moulded capitals and bases. Built into the south-west corner at the junction of tower and nave there is a circular stair turret, probably added when the tower was rebuilt.

The chancel (23 ft. 6 in. by 16 ft. 6 in.) has a carved and traceried hammer-beam roof and its floor is paved with large memorial slabs surrounded by borders of coloured tiles, with the matrices of brasses filled in with cement. The brasses from these and another slab outside the porch have been let into slate slabs<sup>86</sup> and are now fixed on the walls. It is lighted on the east by a pointed tracery window of three lights and by a two-light on the south. The south wall has two marble wall memorials of the 17th and 18th centuries, and two 16th-century brasses in slate slabs: one a man in armour and a woman in the dress of the period with the Shuckburgh arms above, but no inscription; the other to Anthony Shuckburgh, died 1594, and Anne his wife, with two coats at the top and inscription below, another coat in the centre and a row of eight children of diminishing size at the bottom. On the north wall are two modern tablets.

The north chapel (12 ft. 6 in. by 9 ft.) has a trussed rafter roof and is paved with stone. Fixed to the north wall are two 16th-century brasses in slate slabs: one to Thomas Shuckburgh, died 1560, and Elizabeth his wife, has a man in armour and a woman in the dress of the period with coat above; the other has an inscription referring to Margaret daughter of Thomas Shuckburgh and wife of John Cotes, with coat above and the lower part of the figure of a woman, completed by incising the missing portion in the slate slab. On the west is an 18th-century marble memorial.

The south chapel (12 ft. 6 in. by 9 ft. 2 in.) is similar to the one on the north. Against the east wall is a large marble memorial to Richard Shuckburgh, died 1656. It has a classic pediment with the Shuckburgh coat in the tympanum, surmounted by three urns, and below a portrait bust flanked by angels with trumpets holding back curtains. Underneath there is a carved panel with inscription, under a pediment of scrolls with a skull on either side. It rests on a carved splay and a moulded base, with a block in the centre of the moulding on which is placed a skull, below it the name Pet. Bennier. Occupying the whole of the south wall is a large 17th-century monument to John Shuckburgh, died 1631, and Margery his wife, died 1629. It is a table tomb with effigies, the man in armour and the woman in a dress with ruffles; the front panelled, with three shields, canopy above supported on marble corinthian columns and entablature surmounted by a cartouche with an achievement of arms, pinnacles over the columns, both with shields. At the back is a semicircular recess containing an inscription with three shields, and two shields in the spandrels. The underside of the canopy and the soffit of the arch over the recess are panelled in small squares. The whole monument is decorated in gilt and colours except the two effigies. In the floor there is a recent brass tablet.

The nave (32 ft. 6 in. by 20 ft.) has a hammer-beam roof and plastered walls, and is lighted by three-light trefoil windows with flat heads, one on each side, and a similar window, but with two lights, on the south.

This window has two panels of 16th-century stained glass with four coats of the Shuckburgh family, dated 1593. The south window has some modern coloured glass coats of Edward I, Ferrers, Shuckburgh, Denys, and Holt. On the walls there are fourteen mural tablets to the Shuckburgh family and another in the tower.

The tower (6 ft. 10 in. by 6 ft. 7 in.) has a deep splayed recess with a pointed rear-arch to the window. The tower arch is a modern one, pointed, of three moulded orders, and supported on short shafts with floriated capitals. The font is placed in the tower and has an hexagonal basin supported on an hexagonal stem with a moulded capital and a splayed base.

There are four bells;<sup>87</sup> the first, by Henry Bagley, was given by Sir Richard Shuckburgh in 1651 but recast in 1864 by J. Taylor & Co., who in that year cast the second (given by Sir Francis Shuckburgh, 8th baronet). The other two are by Henry Bagley, 1640 and 1651.

The registers of marriages begin in 1757, and of baptisms and burials in 1781.<sup>88</sup>

The church of *ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST*, Lower Shuckburgh, on the north side of the Southam-Daventry road, stands in the centre of a small churchyard, the paths planted with avenues of yew trees. Before 1860, when it was completely rebuilt, the church consisted of chancel and nave, apparently of the late 13th century, a low west tower, perhaps contemporary, crowned with a pyramidal cap, and a south porch.<sup>89</sup> The small modern church is built in what can best be described as a Moorish gothic style. The church consists of chancel, nave, north and south aisles, vestry, tower, and west porch. Externally it is built of a mixture of light and dark sandstone with limestone bands and outlines to all the arches. Inside it is of red and blue bricks with stone dressings. The only evidence of an earlier church is a 13th-century font, a stone tablet in a moulded frame with the initials G.H.O. 1620 in the vestry, and an altar table of the late 17th century. There are gables to the east ends of the chancel, north and south aisles, further gables to the aisles, two to each, and at the west end a gabled double porch. The windows throughout are a nondescript form of tracery. At the south-west angle there is a small hexagonal tower in two stages surmounted by a short hexagonal spire pierced on each face with quatrefoils and trefoils. All six sides have gables filled in with blue stone chippings. It is lighted by three single-light pointed windows and has a door on the south side.

The chancel (25 ft. 8 in. by 14 ft. 6 in.) has a tiled floor and is lighted by a three-light window on the east and single lights north and south. The roof is vaulted in two bays with chamfered arches resting on responds of red and blue brick with stone capitals, the vault decorated with a red and yellow diaper. The walls have a dado composed of bands of red and blue bricks.

The nave (42 ft. by 15 ft. 3 in.) is paved with stone and has a roof of hammer-beam type. The arcades consist of three bays of pointed arches with an inner splayed order of stone and outer orders of dog-toothed red brick, and an outer band of blue bricks. They rest on square pillars set diagonally, built of red brick with bands of blue brick and stone. It is lighted by a rose

<sup>86</sup> In the course of re-setting these brasses the shields have been wrongly placed: *Misc. Gen. et Her.* (Ser. 2), lii,

211, 227.

<sup>87</sup> Tilley and Walters, *Church Bells of Warwick*, 215.

<sup>88</sup> *Birm. Arch. Soc. Trans.* xix, 101.

<sup>89</sup> View c. 1820 in the Aylesford Collection.

window in the west gable with a row of five cinquefoil lights below.

The north aisle (42 ft. by 14 ft.) has a vestry at the east end and is lighted by tracery windows, one three-light and two two-light, with a single light at the west end. The south aisle (42 ft. by 13 ft.) has an organ chamber at the east end and the tower at the west. It is lighted by two pointed three-light windows and a single light at the west end.

The tower (7 ft. 6 in. square) forms a lobby to the south entrance and is vaulted with dog-toothed red brick ribs filled in between with red and yellow diaper. It is lighted by three single pointed lights. The arches to the vestry and organ chamber and the rear-arches to the windows are all of dog-toothed red brick, blue brick, and stone.

The font, placed at the west end of the north aisle, dates from the 13th century and has a slightly tapered circular basin with eight sunk panels with pointed heads, a deep lead-lined basin, and a square stem of modern bricks.

The plate includes a silver chalice and cover of 1574.

There are three bells,<sup>90</sup> two by Hugh Watts, 1601 and 1628, and the other by Thomas Newcombe.

The registers begin in 1678 but the early years are imperfect.

The church of Upper Shuckburgh **ADVOVSONS** was granted by Robert de Succberga, and confirmed about 1150 by

Robert de Alvers, to the nunnery of Wroxall.<sup>91</sup> After the Dissolution the advowson was granted, in 1541, to Sir John Williams,<sup>92</sup> who in the same year obtained licence to alienate it to Thomas Shuckburgh,<sup>93</sup> since when it has followed the descent of the manor. The living is now a donative, and held with Lower Shuckburgh.

This church is not mentioned in the *Taxatio* of 1291; its value in 1535 was £8 6s. 8d.,<sup>94</sup> and there is no mention of any payment to the officiating priest.

Lower Shuckburgh was a chapelry of Priors Hardwick,<sup>95</sup> which church was appropriated to Coventry Priory by Bishop Molend in 1260.<sup>96</sup> After the Dissolution the advowson was in the hands of the Over family of Coventry.<sup>97</sup> By 1604 it had come into the possession of Robert Spencer, 1st Baron Spencer of Wormleighton,<sup>98</sup> whose descendants later became Earls of Sunderland, and in the 18th century to the Earls Spencer. In the latter part of the 19th century Lower Shuckburgh was separated from Priors Hardwick, and it is now held with Upper Shuckburgh, being in the gift of Sir C. G. Shuckburgh, bart. (2 turns) and J. S. Thompson, esq. (1 turn).<sup>99</sup>

William Smith's Charity founded by **CHARITY** will dated 23 August, 10 Queen Anne.

The share of this charity applicable for the parish of Lower Shuckborough consists of a yearly payment of 4s. which is applied by the churchwardens for the benefit of the poor of the parish.

## SOUTHAM

Acreeage: 3,118.

Population: 1911, 1,804; 1921, 1,744; 1931, 1,761.

Southam is a parish and small town some 6 miles south-east of Leamington Spa, with its western boundary formed by the River Itchen from Bascote on the north to the point where the Lodbroke runs into it on the south. The boundaries of the manor and parish are recited in a charter of A.D. 998,<sup>1</sup> and again in the Coventry Priory chartulary of c. 1410.<sup>2</sup> The position of many of the landmarks in each document can be identified, though the names are mostly lost and differ in each. It is remarkable that the 'elder-stub' of 998, at the extreme north of the parish, reappears in the later document as 'Eldernestubbe'; the *gemyde*, or stream-junction, figures as 'Myerbyrygge' (now Myer Bridge), *coccebylle* as 'Cokebull hokes' (the sharply pointed south-eastern angle of the parish), *yppesclif* (the ridge of high land between Ladbroke and Southam) as 'Shilvesleys', and *heahhewellan* as 'Haywell' on the way to the Lodbroke and Itchen. Besides these two streams the River Stowe, of which the southern branch forms part of the eastern boundary, flows across the centre of the parish, passing just east and south of the town, where it is crossed by four road-bridges, to join the Itchen at Stonethorpe.<sup>3</sup> Evidence of the watery nature of the district is given by field-names found in the 12th century<sup>4</sup> indicative of ponds, as Horsepol,

Suteresmere, Saltemere, Fulmere, Hibrewell, Bibrewell, and Halewell (Holy Well still survives); or of small streams, as Nepemebroc, Brodesiche, Stodfodesiche, Kaldevellesiche, and Holesiche. Paths are also mentioned, as Lowewe, Wudewe, Waldwei, and a sinister Dedesmonnesweie.

At the time of the Domesday Survey there was woodland 1 league in length and half a league in breadth belonging to the manor but then 'in the King's hand';<sup>5</sup> it was probably outside the parish bounds. Dugdale comments, 'but where those woods stood it is hard to find out, for now there is scarce a tree left'.<sup>6</sup> Just a century earlier Leland<sup>7</sup> had noted that the country was without wood, all 'champayne' and very good pasture and cornland. He also described Southam as 'a meane market towne of one streate, standinge somewhat clymyng on the syde of a smaulle balkynge grownde',<sup>8</sup> the ground rising, in fact, rapidly northwards from 250 ft. on the banks of the Stowe to nearly 300 ft. at the market-place, and then more gradually. The town developed round the intersection of several roads: Leland's 'one streate' was the main road from Oxford to Coventry;<sup>9</sup> this is crossed in the market-place by the road from Northampton to Warwick; and the 'Welsh Road', an ancient route from the Watling Street at Towcester to Birmingham and the west, runs through the town. Other roads of some importance, to Rugby and Kineton, branch from

<sup>90</sup> Tilley and Walters, *Church Bells of Warwick*, 215.

<sup>91</sup> Madox, *Formulare*, lxviii.

<sup>92</sup> L. and P. Hen. I'lll., xvi, 779 (21).

<sup>93</sup> Ibid. 878 (39).

<sup>94</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Comm.), iii, 89.

<sup>95</sup> Dugd. 514.

<sup>96</sup> Ibid. citing Reg. Molend. m.4.

<sup>97</sup> Dugd. 513.

<sup>98</sup> Ibid.

<sup>99</sup> Crockford, 1940.

<sup>1</sup> Nagier and Stevenson, *Crawford Charters*, viii. Cf. *Place-Names of Warwick*.

<sup>2</sup> 144, n. 2.

<sup>3</sup> Exch. K. R. Misc. Bks. 21, fol. 260.

<sup>4</sup> An Inquiry in 1397 showed that the bridge at Stonethorpe had been made by private effort, 'out of devotion', for foot-passengers and pack-horses, but not carts,

and that therefore the Prior of Coventry had no responsibility for its upkeep: *Public Works* (Selden Soc.), ii, 225.

<sup>5</sup> *Foot of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xi), 81, 150, 158, 159.

<sup>6</sup> *P.C.H. Warwick*, 105. <sup>7</sup> Dugd. 318.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.* (ed. Toulmin Smith), ii, 109.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> See Ogilby's *Britannia* (1675), pl. 82.

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

the Coventry and Warwick roads respectively a short distance out of the town.

The Prior of Coventry was granted in 1227 the right to hold a market on Wednesday and a fair on the feast of St. Leger (2 October) and seven days following;<sup>10</sup> in 1239 the market-day was changed to Monday and the fair to begin on St. George's day.<sup>11</sup> An additional fair on the eve, feast, and morrow of St. Peter and St. Paul (29 June) was granted in 1257.<sup>12</sup> Early in the 15th century the market with its tolls and court of Portemannesmote was producing 53s. 4d. yearly, and there are mentions of booths (*selde*) built 'below the cross in the market-place', and of 'a long building beside the churchyard made for the Drapery' and estimated as worth 40s. yearly.<sup>13</sup> The same rental mentions 'free burgesses in the hamlet (*vico*) called Neulonde'.<sup>14</sup> Though Southam never became a borough it was, in 1607, 'a well-known and frequented market',<sup>15</sup> and Thomas Baskerville, who passed through the town in 1677, mentions a large cattle trade at the Monday market.<sup>16</sup> In 1790, also, it had 'a considerable market for cattle, though it is but an indifferent town'.<sup>17</sup> The market and a fair on 10 July<sup>18</sup> continued to be held until the early years of the 20th century; there was also, c. 1850, an occasional 'show fair' held in June, with a 'procession of Lady Godiva'.<sup>19</sup> The town itself seems to have improved in appearance and prosperity about this time. Its selection as a centre for a Union under the Poor Law of 1834 may have been a stimulus; but its distance from a railway station—Southam Road and Harbury (former G.W.R.) 3 miles, and Southam and Long Itchington (former L.M.S.) 1½ miles—has been a handicap to its development.

The village is a considerable one, spread along both sides of the main street. Most of the houses are built of red brick with tiled roofs, of late-18th-century and early-19th-century date, and in many cases earlier buildings re-fronted. Except for the Manor House and the public house called 'The Old Mint', the oldest part of the village is along a road parallel with and to the east of the main street, which has several small stone-built mid-17th-century houses and parts of others embodied in later buildings.

The Manor House occupies a corner site on Market Hill near the centre of the town and forms a residence and a chemist's shop. The north front faces the Daventry road and the west the main street. It is a two-story building with an attic, L-shaped in plan, the lower story built of stone ashlar with timber-framing above, now roughcast over. It dates from the latter half of the 16th century and has a symmetrical elevation to the north. The upper floor is slightly projected on a moulded sole-plate which is supported by four carved scroll-brackets terminating in grotesque heads, the two at the corners fixed diagonally. At each end there are gables, with moulded barge-boards projecting from the wall face on moulded tie-beams and supported at the ends by moulded brackets. The windows are placed centrally under the gables, four-light with transoms to the ground floor, five-light with transoms, which project and are supported on four brackets, to the first floor, and two-light to the attics. The ground-floor windows are of two splayed orders, the inner splay hollow, with flat heads, and in the timber-

framing they are of oak with moulded frames and mullions. The roof is tiled, gabled at both ends, and has a large stone central chimney-stack with four later brick chimneys set diagonally. There is a cellar to this part of the house, lighted by small two-light windows on the north and east. The west front has two gables, their barge-boards carved with running vine scrolls, mitred in the centre and supported on carved scroll-brackets. Below the gable to the north a later bay window has been inserted on the moulded sole-plate, supported on a carved bracket in the centre. Under the bay there is an original four-light transomed window, similar to those on the north front, and original two-light windows in both gables. The rest of this front is taken up by a modern door to the residence, a shop front, and a modern three-light window to the first floor. The east side has a four-light transomed window to the ground floor, none to the upper floors. The gable has modern plain barge-boards; it retains its original scroll-brackets but its moulded tie-beam is missing. A later house has been built against the south side. Internally the original plan has been obscured by alterations, but most of the rooms have original moulded beams and on the first floor two original stone chimney-pieces with moulded four-centred heads, the outer member forming a square head with sunk spandrels, the inner continuing down the jambs to moulded stops. The fire-place to the west room has the addition of carved rosettes, one on each of the stops.

On the east side of the main street not far from the Manor House there is a public house called 'The Old Mint' built of roughly squared and coursed limestone with sandstone dressings. It has been restored and the original features are too badly decayed to give a definite date to its erection, but the general appearance suggests the beginning of the 16th century. Two stories high, with attics and a cellar to the north wing, it is L-shaped in plan, with equal arms, and has a porch in the inner angle of the L; the roofs are of steep pitch, covered with tiles, and there is a plinth of one splay. On the street front the north wing has a gabled end and is lighted by two single windows to the cellar, three-light to the ground and first floors, and a two-light to the attic; all have flat heads and hood-moulds with return ends to the upper floors. The porch is gabled and carried up the full height of the building, but its door is covered by a modern one-story porch. Above, there is a two-light window with a moulded panel over the window head and a single light in the gable. The doorway has a four-centred arch of one splay carried down to splayed stops. At the back a later chimney-stack has been built against the gabled end of the north wing, blocking one light of a three-light window on the first floor; the three-light window below is modern but has its original hood-moulds. The south wing has a four-light window to the ground floor and a two-light above, with one blocked. The doorway is similar to the one at the front but with its arch renewed. The north side on the ground floor has two two-light windows with a modern single light between them; and above, one original small square window of two splays and two later single lights. Internally the partitions to the upper floor are timber-framed, the ceiling beams moulded, and also the

<sup>10</sup> *Cal. Chanc.* R. i, b.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.* 242.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.* 472.

<sup>13</sup> *Exch. K. R. Misc. Bks.* 21, fol. 262.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.* 260 v.

<sup>15</sup> *Camden, Britannica* (1806), ii, 441.

<sup>16</sup> *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* xiii (2), 290.

<sup>17</sup> *England's Gazetteer.*

<sup>18</sup> i.e. 29 June, old style.

<sup>19</sup> *White, Direct. of Warwicks.*



mullions and heads of the windows. The ground floor has been adapted to suit the business, but retains a good 17th-century staircase from the ground floor to the attic. It has moulded strings, panelled newel-post with ball finials, turned balusters, moulded handrails and pendants. There is a gable end to the south wing but it has a later building against it.

The rental of c. 1410<sup>20</sup> shows that the arable lay in two fields, a virgate consisting of 40 acres, half in each field. The demesne included 493 acres of arable, of which approximately half was sown each year, and 44 acres of meadow. The pasture was mostly along the stream (now called the Stowe), in which the prior had fishing rights, as also on one bank of the Itchen. The water-mill at this time was completely wrecked, but the wind- and horse-mills were worth £6 13s. 4d. Ogilby's road map<sup>21</sup> in 1695 shows the town surrounded by common fields, and this condition continued for nearly a century, until in 1760 an Inclosure Act was passed affecting 2,200 acres, in 50 yardlands.<sup>22</sup>

When Charles I visited Southam in 1641 the church bells were not rung at either his arrival or departure, for which offence the king's 'footmen' locked up the church and had to be bribed to open it.<sup>23</sup> It is therefore rather surprising to find Nehemiah Wharton in August 1642 describing the place as 'a very malignant towne, both minister and people. We pillaged the minister and took from him a drum and severall armes.'<sup>24</sup> This minister was Francis Holyoake,<sup>25</sup> distinguished as a lexicographer, who had been rector since 1605. He retained the living until 1647, in which year he was sequestered for urging his people to join the royal forces, but, in view of his being 80, was granted £60 pension. He died in 1653.

Two of the church bells were broken during the Civil War and were repaired for £12;<sup>26</sup> about the same time (1651-9) the general repair of the church was undertaken, leading to disputes as to the contributions towards this.<sup>27</sup> A fire in the tannery of William Mason in 1657 spread to three adjoining houses and caused over £250 damage;<sup>28</sup> there was another serious fire in February 1742.<sup>29</sup> Presbyterianism was strong in 1672, when Samuel Bryan,<sup>30</sup> a former rector of Allesley, had licence to preach and the houses of Robert Marsh and Jonathan Wye were licensed for worship.<sup>31</sup> There are now Congregational and Methodist chapels, dating from 1832 and 1853 respectively, and a Roman Catholic school (1898) and chapel (1925). The first self-supporting public dispensary in England was started at Southam in 1823 by Mr. Henry Lilley Smith, who also established an ear and eye infirmary, whose building was 'highly ornamental to the town'.<sup>32</sup>

Among notable persons connected with Southam are Augustine Bernher,<sup>33</sup> the faithful companion of Bishop Latimer and other Protestant martyrs. He

was rector of Southam in 1562, when he published Latimer's sermons,<sup>34</sup> and at his death in 1566;<sup>35</sup> and Timothy Hall (? 1637-90) 'one of the meaneest and most obscure of the city divines', who was ejected from the rectory under the Act of Uniformity but was later appointed by James II as Bishop of Oxford.<sup>36</sup>

Thomas Abbotts, Thomas Pratt, and James Baldwin, three Southam men who served in the Crimean War, are commemorated by a small memorial against the outer wall of the south aisle of the church. The first-named was killed at the battle of the Alma.

**SOUTHAM** was originally royal property, a charter of Ethelred 'the Unready' being preserved wherein, in 998, he granted it to Earl Leofwine,<sup>37</sup> whose son Leofric included it in his original endowment of Coventry Priory in 1043.<sup>38</sup> The Domesday assessment was 4 hides; there were two mills worth 4s. The woodland, said to be a league long by half a league broad, was in the king's hands.<sup>39</sup> Southam remained a manor of Coventry Priory, held in chief of the king, up to the Dissolution.<sup>40</sup> The prior was in 1257 granted free warren here and in other estates.<sup>41</sup> In 1291 the Coventry temporalities at Southam amounted to 4 carucates, worth £1 each, £20 6s. annually in rents, the two mills, now assessed at 10s., livestock of £2 value, and 13s. 4d. from perquisites of courts.<sup>42</sup> In 1353 the priory was in debt to Isabelle, widow of Edward II, and the sheriff delivered to her steward, John le Bruyn, 10s. worth of hay, standing corn to the value of £44 12s., half the mowing-grass and half the boon-works of the tenants, worth 20s. and 6s. 8d. respectively, which he sold to William de Catesby with a lease of a moiety of the manor as delivered to the queen by the sheriff, for her term therein, for £27 2s. 10½d. yearly.<sup>43</sup>

In 1199 William de Suham granted to the priory, for a consideration of 3 marks, 19 acres of land and 2 of meadow, and a mill;<sup>44</sup> part of this was leased back to him or his namesake in 1227 for 3s. yearly rent.<sup>45</sup> In 1253 Prior William allowed rights of common of pasture as between Southam and Radbourne to William de Ardern of Radbourne, from the meadow of Henry de Lodbroc as far as a field called Cokesbylle, as the road stretches from Marston westwards, for 2s. a year.<sup>46</sup> A further dispute on the same matter occurred in 1262, when the prior summoned Adam de Napton and 25 others to show by what right they demanded common in his lands when he had none in theirs and they were not his tenants. He granted them, subject to various restrictions, all the pasture called la Waude.<sup>47</sup> Licences to alienate in mortmain to Coventry Priory in Southam were granted in 1290 to Robert de Stoke for 4 messuages, 80 acres of land and 40 of meadow, and 24s. rent;<sup>48</sup> in 1309 to Robert de Undele for a messuage and 6 acres of land;<sup>49</sup> and several other times in the 14th century.<sup>50</sup> The manor had become a very valuable one by 1535, the priory deriving no less than

<sup>20</sup> Exch. Ch. R. Misc. Bks. 21, fol. 258-62.

<sup>21</sup> *Britannia*, pl. 82.

<sup>22</sup> Slater, *Engl. Peasantry and Encl.* 302.

<sup>23</sup> Tilley and Walters, *Church Bells of Warwick*, 221.

<sup>24</sup> *Archæologia*, xxcv, 316.

<sup>25</sup> *Dict. Nat. Biog.*; Matthews, *Walker Revised*, 363.

<sup>26</sup> *Warw. Co. Records*, iii, 105.

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid.* iii, 61; iv, 74, 145, 159. In 1674 the overseers were ordered to remove Susanna Russell, a pauper who had taken up residence in the church: *ibid.* vii, 21.

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.* iv, 21.

<sup>29</sup> *Gent. Mag.* 1825 (1), 226.

<sup>30</sup> See, Matthews, *Calamy Revised*, 84.

<sup>31</sup> *Cal. S. P. Dom.* 1672, pp. 575, 578.

<sup>32</sup> White, *Diocesan of Warwick*.

<sup>33</sup> *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

<sup>34</sup> *Sermon of Bp. Latimer* (Parker Soc.), 325.

<sup>35</sup> *Dugd.* 330.

<sup>36</sup> *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

<sup>37</sup> *Crucifera Chart.* (ed. Napier and Stephenson), viii.

<sup>38</sup> *Dugdale, Mon. Angl.* iii, 191.

<sup>39</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* i, 305.

<sup>40</sup> e.g. *Feudal Aids*, v, 177; Chan. Inq. p.m. 11 Ric. II, 65.

<sup>41</sup> *Cal. Chari. R.* i, 472.

<sup>42</sup> *Tax. Eccl. (Rec. Com.)*, 254.

<sup>43</sup> *Cal. Anc. Deds.* v, A. 10715.

<sup>44</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xi), 28.

<sup>45</sup> *Ibid.* 411.

<sup>46</sup> *Ibid.* 730. For 'Cokesbylle' see above.

<sup>47</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xi), 790.

<sup>48</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1281-92, p. 384.

<sup>49</sup> *Ibid.* 1307-11, p. 102.

<sup>50</sup> *Ibid.* 1317-21, pp. 140, 532; 1330-4.

p. 109; 1354-8, p. 174.

£55 4s. 4d. revenue from Southam,<sup>51</sup> not including £5 for the farm of the manor, paid to the steward of the monastery,<sup>52</sup> and rents of £1 4s. 4d. assigned to the pitancer.<sup>53</sup>

In 1542 the manor was granted in fee to Sir Edmund Knightley and Lady Ursula his wife.<sup>54</sup> He died the same year without surviving issue, his heirs being his five nieces—Joan, wife of John Knottesforth, and formerly of George Lumley; Susan, later the wife of Richard Langtree; Anne, wife of George Throckmorton, and afterwards of Thomas Porter of Ettington; Mary, wife of Bartholomew Hussey, and later of Thomas Spenser; and Frances, later the wife of James Duffield.<sup>55</sup> Mary and Frances were at that time minors, and their shares were put in custody of John, Lord Russell,<sup>56</sup> who granted the rents arising therefrom to Robert Burgoine of Wroxall, one of the commissioners in Warwickshire for the suppression of the monasteries.<sup>57</sup> Frances and James Duffield, and Anne and her second husband Thomas Porter had licence in 1549 and 1550 respectively to settle their estates on themselves and their heirs.<sup>58</sup> After 1583, when Susan Langtree died without issue,<sup>59</sup> her share was re-allotted and the descent of Southam manor continued in quarters and fractions of a quarter.

John Knottesforth had no children by Joan Knightley, the eldest of the heiresses, her share devolving on John, Lord Lumley, her son by her first husband.<sup>60</sup> He passed it to Henry Bromley in 1586.<sup>61</sup> Susan Knightley's share has already been dealt with. Anne's came to Fulk Porter, her son by her second husband.<sup>62</sup> Fulk died in 1570, his successor being his brother Simon, then aged 19.<sup>63</sup> Simon, with his son Thomas, in 1605 made a 1000-year lease of his quarter of the manor for 44s. annual rent.<sup>64</sup> Sir Thomas had livery of it in 1619–20,<sup>65</sup> and made a settlement in 1634.<sup>66</sup> This quarter continued in the Porter family,<sup>67</sup> in 1689 being conveyed by Poyntz Porter to William Price,<sup>68</sup> presumably on lease or mortgage, as Poyntz was 'late lord' in 1721 and 'Mrs Porter, of Coventry' was stated to hold a quarter of the manorial rights as late as 1730.<sup>69</sup>

Though Anne Throckmorton's share devolved on the descendants of her marriage to Thomas Porter, the Haseley branch of the Throckmorton family acquired two of the other shares, Clement Throckmorton having obtained the Duffield fifth before his death in 1573,<sup>70</sup> and his son Job the Hussey portion in 1582.<sup>71</sup> Job held two-fourths of the manor of the Crown at his death in 1601,<sup>72</sup> his son Clement, then a minor, obtaining livery thereof the following year.<sup>73</sup> He and his son, another Clement, were dealing with their part of the manor in 1620 and 1626.<sup>74</sup>

After the middle of the 17th century it becomes

difficult to trace the succession of the various fractions of the manor. The Throckmorton half had by 1721 come to the Earls Craven,<sup>75</sup> who are mentioned as lords at various times up to the end of the 18th century.<sup>76</sup> The Hanslap family, some of whom are described as of Southam in the 1619 Visitation,<sup>77</sup> had interests there from 1597.<sup>78</sup> Nicholas Hanslap, who died in 1624, held a messuage and property in Oldford Leyes, Berry Parke, Shelves, and other localities of Clement Throckmorton and others as of their manor of Southam;<sup>79</sup> some of this he bequeathed to his second son Robert,<sup>80</sup> the remainder going to his eldest son Richard, who had received one-sixteenth of the manorial rights from Thomas Hopton and others in 1631<sup>81</sup> and on whose death in 1636 his son, another Richard, had livery of his father's various estates, described as an eighth part of the manor.<sup>82</sup> A quarter of this, i.e. a thirty-second part of the manor, was passed by the younger Richard Hanslap and Dorothy his wife to Robert Hanslap in 1656.<sup>83</sup>

In 1730 the distribution of manorial rights in Southam was stated to be: the Earl of Craven 16 parts (out of 32), Mrs. Porter of Coventry 8, Mr. Rogers of Southam 3, Mr. Atkins of Southam 2, and Messrs. Jackson and Brafield of Southam and Heath of Warwick 1 each.<sup>84</sup> Soon after this an unspecified part was in the hands of the Brockhurst and Packwood families,<sup>85</sup> Thomas Brockhurst holding manorial rights in 1750, and Mary Packwood in 1762.<sup>86</sup> By 1850 the manor was divided between Henry Thomas Chamberlayne of Stoney Thorpe, Mr. A. N. Nourse, and the Rev. Thomas Lea.<sup>87</sup> Mr. W. T. Chamberlayne, the eldest son of the first-named, succeeded to part of the manorial rights, but by 1900 these had become obsolescent, no courts having been held for many years.<sup>88</sup> Such rights as survived were shared in 1924 between Mrs. E. M. Chamberlayne and Mrs. T. French.<sup>89</sup>

The church of *ST. JAMES*, to the *CHURCH* west of the town, stands on a mound towards the east of a large churchyard. It is entered by a modern timber lych-gate, with an avenue of lime-trees to the north porch, and also by a gate on the south. It consists of a chancel, nave, north and south aisles, north aisle to chancel, west tower, north and south porches and a vestry. The present church dates from the 14th century; in the 15th century a spire was added to the tower, the aisles nearly doubled in width, the chancel rebuilt, and early in the 16th century the aisle roofs were lowered to enable a clearstory to be added. Within recent times an aisle was added on the north side of the chancel, together with a vestry, which is entered from it, the south porch and the north wall of the north aisle were rebuilt.

<sup>51</sup> *Falor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 49.

<sup>52</sup> *Ibid.* 50.

<sup>53</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII.* xvii, 285 (6).

<sup>54</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), lxx, 23.

<sup>55</sup> *V.C.H. Northants. Families*, 182.

<sup>56</sup> *L. and P. Hen. I.* ii, xx (2), 496 (67).

<sup>57</sup> *Ibid.* xxi (2), 1.

<sup>58</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1549–51, pp. 49, 357.

<sup>59</sup> Feet of F. Div. Cos. Mich. 3 and East.

<sup>60</sup> *Edw. VI.*

<sup>61</sup> Baker, *Northants.* i, 382.

<sup>62</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>63</sup> Pat. 27 Eliz. pt. 8; Feet of F. Warw. Hil. 28 Eliz. It was probably this share,

or part thereof, that passed to the Hanslap family in the 17th century.

<sup>64</sup> Dugd. 338.

<sup>65</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), clix, 82.

<sup>66</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Trin. 3 Jas. I.

<sup>67</sup> Fine R. 17 Jas. I, pt. 3, no. 16.

<sup>68</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 10 Chas. I.

<sup>69</sup> *Ibid.* Trin. 16 Chas. I; Trin. 23

Chas. II. <sup>70</sup> *Ibid.* East. 4 Jas. II.

<sup>71</sup> Dugd. 338.

<sup>72</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), clxxii, 143;

Pat. 21 Eliz. pt. 5.

<sup>73</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Hil. 24 Eliz.

<sup>74</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), clxxiii, 9.

<sup>75</sup> Fine R. 44 Eliz. pt. 1, no. 25.

<sup>76</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 18 Jas. I

and Mich. 2 Chas. I.

<sup>77</sup> *Ibid.* Div. Cos. East. 7 Geo. I.

<sup>78</sup> Dugd. 338; Gamekeepers' Deputations

(1749, 1773), Shire Hall, Warwick;

Recov. R. Mich. 10 Geo. III, ro. 299, and

Trin. 35 Geo. III, ro. 131.

<sup>79</sup> *Harl. Soc.* xii, 257.

<sup>80</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 39–40 Eliz.

<sup>81</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), ccciv, 115.

<sup>82</sup> *Ibid.* cccxviii, 90.

<sup>83</sup> Feet of F. Warw. East. 6 Chas. I.

<sup>84</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), dliv, 55;

Fine R. 13 Chas. I, pt. 1, no. 40.

<sup>85</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Trin. 1656;

Recov. R. Mich. 1656, ro. 166.

<sup>86</sup> Dugd. 338. John Brafield was a

churchwarden in 1652: *Warw. Co.*

*Records*, iii, 105.

<sup>87</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Trin. 6–7 Geo. II;

Mich. 12 Geo. II; Mich. 14 Geo. II.

<sup>88</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations.

<sup>89</sup> White, *Directory Warw.*, 698.

<sup>90</sup> Kelly, *Directory Warw.*

<sup>91</sup> Manorial List (P.R.O.).



SOUTHAM CHURCH: NORTH ARCADE





A great deal of restoration has been carried out including the spire, the upper part of which appears to have been rebuilt with a light-coloured sandstone.

The chancel has a modern tiled roof, with rebuilt gables and modern copings and finials. The east wall has been largely refaced, the buttresses rebuilt, and the moulded plinth renewed; it is lighted by a pointed window of four trefoil lights and moulded tracery with a hood-mould having head-stops. The south side has three windows of two plays with an outer roll-moulding and three pointed lights, the centre lights trefoil and the others ogee-headed. The sill of the centre window has been raised to allow for a doorway below, which has an ogee head of one play; the window to the west is a modern replica of the other two. The north side has a modern vestry<sup>90</sup> built against it with a window of three narrow trefoil lights on the east, and a door with pointed trefoiled head and a hood-mould with floriated stops; in the gable is a single trefoil light. At the junction of the chancel with the east wall of the south aisle there is a projection, weathered at the top, for the staircase to the rood-loft, lit by a small trefoil loop-light.

The south aisle has a modern three-light east window with a segmental-pointed arch and hood-mould with floriated stops; the south wall has a plinth of one play, coved eaves course with paterae in the hollow, and a low-pitched lead-covered roof. There are buttresses at each angle and another between the two windows to the east; the most easterly window is a modern one of three pointed lights, with a segmental pointed arch of two plays with hood-mould having head-stops. The two remaining windows, one on each side of the porch, are traceried, with pointed arches of two played orders and two pointed trefoil lights. The porch, stone-paved with seats each side, is modern, with a pointed entrance arch on attached shafts with floriated capitals and moulded bases, twin trefoil lights under square heads on either side, a tiled roof, buttresses at the angles, and a moulded plinth. The doorway has a pointed moulded arch with a large roll in a hollow play, no doubt taken from the earlier aisle wall and re-used. A later hood-mould has been added. The west wall shows the line of the earlier steep-pitched roof of the narrower aisle and has a modern three-light tracery window with a pointed arch, and hood-mould with floriated stops, and a plinth of one play. The clearstory, dating from the early 16th century, consists on both sides of a series of eight two-light windows in deep hollow plays, with four-centred heads, pointed cinquefoil lights with four trefoil lights in the tracery, and a continuous hood-moulding. Below the sills of each of the lights there are panels having flat cinquefoil heads with floriated terminals to the cusps, except the end panels on the north side, which have cinquefoil ogee heads and tracery, and on the south side a similar tracery panel below the fifth window from the west. Above the windows there is a plain parapet resting on a coved string-course to the low-pitched lead-covered roof of the nave. The north aisle has a low-pitched lead-covered roof with eaves, and a plinth of one play. Its north wall has been almost entirely rebuilt, including the buttresses at the ends and another between the two windows to the east; these two windows are of three trefoil ogee lights under flat heads with hood-moulds

and head-stops. The porch, also modern, has a tiled roof, angle buttresses, and single trefoil lights, one on either side. The entrance has a pointed arch, the mouldings carried down the jambs to splayed stops, and a hood-mould. The doorway has a pointed arch of two orders, the outer a wave, the inner a roll which has small moulded capitals; it was no doubt taken from the earlier aisle wall and re-used. The west wall has built into it the remains of several decayed and defaced monuments; it has a moulded plinth, stopping at the point where the rebuilding of the north wall commences, and a modern pointed tracery window of two cinquefoil ogee lights with a hood-mould. The chancel aisle has buttresses at the angles, and tracery windows of two trefoil lights and hood-moulds.

The tower has a lofty octagonal spire which was added in the 15th century, starting from a hollow-moulded string-course, with a series of carved heads in its hollow, that formed the base of the original parapet. The west side has massive diagonal buttresses rising in five weathered stages, rebuilt above the lower stages in red sandstone, probably when the spire was built. The buttresses on the east side are overlapped by the nave and aisle walls. The west door is a later insertion with a moulded flat shouldered head which also forms the sill of a window having two pointed trefoil lights under a moulded ogee head, with a hood-mould having a floriated finial and stops; only the jambs are original. On the south side there is a loop-light to the ringing-chamber. The belfry windows are of two trefoil lights under a sharply pointed arch of two orders, a splay and outer wave-moulding. The spire, which terminates in a vane representing a cock, is divided into three by two string-courses and rises from the original string-course and from steeply splayed angles, the splays terminating in tall square panelled piers having attached shafts at each angle with moulded capitals, trefoil-headed panels, crocketed gabled heads and pinnacles, both with floriated finials. Immediately above the first string, on the cardinal faces, there are two-light trefoil openings with pierced quatrefoils, under gabled heads, and above the second string, on the half-cardinal sides, small gabled spire lights with foliated finials.

Internally the floors are paved with stone slabs throughout, many of them memorial slabs; the walls, except in the tower, are plastered, and all the seating is modern.

The chancel (41 ft. by 19 ft. 9 in.) has a modern open trussed rafter roof, and a modern altar-table, with two steps to the rail and two to the altar. The east window has a pointed rear-arch and below there is a modern stone panelled reredos. On the south the three windows repeat their outside mouldings and arches; the door under the centre window has a segmental rear-arch. Close to the east wall is an ogee-headed piscina with a mutilated basin, and at the west a narrow 14th-century doorway, high up, with a moulded three-centred head, giving access to a modern rood-loft. The north side has a modern arcade of two bays of moulded pointed arches resting on a pier of four clustered shafts with moulded capitals and bases with responds of half the centre pier; a hood-moulding is continued over both arches to head-stops at the ends.

The nave (52 ft. 6 in. by 22 ft. 4 in.) has two steps

<sup>90</sup> The drawing of the church c. 1820 in the Aylesford Collection shows a building on the north of the chancel and

at right angles to it, apparently of two stories, with windows of a domestic type and a chimney by the apex of the north

gable. It looks as if it may have been a schoolhouse.

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

to the chancel and, placed on the north side of the chancel arch, is an early-17th-century octagonal pulpit, with tracery-headed panels, on a panelled octagonal base. Both arcades are of four bays of pointed arches of two splayed orders supported on octagonal pillars with moulded capitals, splayed bases and a continuous hood-moulding with modern head-stops inserted in the mitres above the capitals. The responds represent half-pillars. The mouldings on the capitals vary between two types, and the arch splays to the two east bays of the south arcade are hollow, in the next the outer splay only is hollow, and the remainder all have plain splays. On the west face of the pillar at the eastern end of the south arcade there is a carved stone bracket. The hood-moulds and capitals to the western bay have been partly cut away for a gallery, which has since been removed. The chancel arch is pointed, of two splayed orders continued to the ground on the nave side, and on the chancel side the outer splay dies out on the walls. The tower arch is pointed, with two splayed orders to the nave, and three to the tower, all of them dying out on the tower walls. On either side of the tower arch there are traces of painted decoration and fragments of texts. The clearstories are a repeat of the exterior, except for the omission of the tracery from the one traceried panel on the south side. The roof is contemporary with the clearstory and consists of three main trusses, with two wall and four intermediate trusses. The main trusses have moulded tie-beams with curved brackets, their spandrels filled in with open tracery, five posts supporting the ridge and four moulded purlins, with curved brackets from the centre post to the ridge and, between the posts, open traceried panels. The wall trusses are similar but the tie-beams are embattled and decorated with a band of sunk quatrefoils. The intermediate trusses are formed by trussed rafters of heavier scantling than the common rafters. At all the junctions of the purlins and ridge there are carved bosses, Tudor roses to the end bays, angels to the ridge, and the remainder foliated. All of the brackets to the main trusses are supported on carved stone corbels in pairs; to the west truss angels holding plain shields, the centre truss holding crowns, the east truss holding scrolls, and to both the wall trusses grotesque human faces. The rafters rest on moulded and embattled wall-plates, concealed in places by plaster panels between the timbers.

The south aisle (54 ft. 4 in. by 17 ft. 1 in.) has a roof, probably dating from the 17th century, consisting of heavy chamfered beams with brackets supported on plain corbels on the south wall and arcade except the beam to the east, which has early-16th-century carved-head corbels at both ends. In widening the aisle a good deal of the earlier material was re-used, including a piscina at the east end of the south wall with a moulded trefoil head, fluted basin and a small carved-head bracket at the back of the recess; also two tomb recesses with moulded pointed arches, the one to the east having a roll-moulding carried down as a short shaft with a moulded base but no capital; the adjoining one is similar but with floriated capitals to the shafts. There is a continuous hood-moulding to the arcade arches with a head-stop at the east end, but the corresponding one at the west end is missing. In the east wall close to the arcade respond there is a narrow 14th-century doorway to the rood-loft stairs, now used for

a modern rood; it has a moulded three-centred head, continued down the jambs to splayed stops. The east bay is now in use as a chapel, with a modern altar-table and rail with one step. There is a segmental-pointed rear-arch to the east window, segmental to the window at the east end of the south wall, and pointed to the remainder, all with splayed recesses. The re-used doorway has a stop-chamfered segmental rear-arch and on either side of it there are oak chests, one with iron straps and three original locks is dated 1600; the other, also 17th-century, has scalloped edges and is bound with iron straps, fitted with four locks and hasps, one of the locks an 18th-century replacement, the hasp original. It stands on moulded feet, and is fitted with iron lifting-rings at each end. The font, placed just west of the door, is a modern one of stone with an octagonal basin, carved on each face, standing on an octagonal stem moulded at the base.

The north aisle (52 ft. 3 in. by 18 ft. 3 in.) has a modern roof, and an arch opening into the chancel aisle, of two moulded orders, the inner supported on attached shafts with moulded capitals and bases. Over the arcade arches there is a continuous hood-moulding with stops at each end. Both the square-headed windows have chamfered segmental rear-arches, the remaining window pointed and the door a segmental one.

The chancel aisle (26 ft. 5 in. by 15 ft. 10 in.) has, on the east wall, six mural tablets of the 18th and 19th centuries to members of the Chamberlayne family of Stoneythorpe, removed from the south wall of the chancel in 1854; on the other walls there are three hatchments. The organ is placed in the west bay of the arcade. The vestry has a small angle fireplace and an open trussed rafter roof.

The tower (9 ft. 10 in. by 8 ft. 6 in.) is unplastered and the window has a deep splayed recess which has been carried down to include the inserted doorway.

The plate consists of a silver flagon 1819, a silver chalice of the 16th century with the cover missing, a silver paten, a small silver paten and a silver chalice of 1633 inscribed: 'This cup is the gift of certayne godly persons whose names are these Nicholas Hanslap, gent. payed 40 shillings for the gift of his father Mr. Robert Han: and his grandmother Mrs. E. L. Han: Richard Hanslap junior, gent. 20 shillings for the gift of his father Ro: Edm: and his brother Tho: Edm: Job Hill 20 shillings for the gift of his mother E: H:'

There are six bells:<sup>91</sup> (1) originally of 1596, recast by G. Mears & Co in 1863, when (2) was added; (3) by Hugh Watts, 1613, also recast in 1863; (4) Hugh Watts, 1615; (5) John Martin of Worcester, 1650; (6) Henry Bagley, 1676.

The registers begin in 1539.

Southern being a Coventry Priory *ADVOWSON* manor, the patronage of the church was in the hands of the prior up to the Reformation. In 1248 the priory assigned to the dean and chapter of Lichfield £20 in pensions out of the church of Southern instead of from that of St. Michael, Coventry.<sup>92</sup> In 1291 the church was worth £6 13s. 4d. in addition to this pension.<sup>93</sup> About a hundred years later (1387) it was alleged that the chapter had purchased this £20 as an annual rent from the priory, who held the church directly of the king, without royal licence, and it was taken into the king's hands.<sup>94</sup>

<sup>91</sup> Tilley and Walters, *Church Bells of Warwick*, 226-231.

<sup>92</sup> Dugd., 138-9, quoting MSS. of Lichfield Dean and Chapter.

<sup>93</sup> *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 241.

<sup>94</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. 11 Ric. II, 63.

The church was not appropriated to the priory till 1452, when a vicarage was endowed with £8 a year, and additional pensions of 2s. and 2od. were reserved to the bishop and archdeacon respectively;<sup>95</sup> but this appropriation, if ever effected, must soon have been given up, as in 1535, when the rectory was worth £22 17s. 4d. clear, there is no mention of a vicarage. By this time the pension payable to Lichfield, which was still £20 in 1463,<sup>96</sup> had been reduced to £10.<sup>97</sup>

The first presentation (1549) after the Dissolution was made by the Crown;<sup>98</sup> in theory, portions of the advowson were transferred with and followed the descent of the various portions of the manor, but up to the beginning of the 17th century the patronage was exercised by the Throckmortons of Haseley, who had accumulated half the manorial rights, or their nominees. The presentation of 1662, the first one recorded since 1604, was made by Richard Porter of Ettington, Nicholas Hanslap, and John Brayfield of Southam,<sup>99</sup> all members of families that held other fractions of the manorial rights. From 1682 the advowson has been held by the Crown.

William Dunn by will dated 30 September 1858 bequeathed to the rector and churchwardens of Southam £10, the interest to be laid out in bread to be distributed in Easter week amongst the poor widows inhabiting the parish.

The Returns to Parliament under Gilbert's Act, 26 Geo. III state that—

Henry Edmunds gave by deed in 1650, and by will in 1652, land for clothing 10 poor men.

Alice Goode, by will in 1727, gave £5 for bread to poor widows.

Alice Southam, by will dated 18 January 1828, gave £5 for bread to poor widows.

Martha Spraggett, by will dated 30 December 1847, bequeathed £50 to the minister and churchwardens of Southam to apply the interest on New Year's day in buying coals, clothing, or bread to be distributed amongst ten poor persons residing in the parish.

William Simpson by will dated 13 November 1854 bequeathed £200, the interest to be annually applied in the purchase of coals to be distributed on the anniversary of his death amongst the poor of the parish, a preference being given to the aged widows and married poor having large families to maintain. The testator's estate was insufficient for the payment of all the legacies in full and this charitable legacy was abated to the sum of £111 2s. 1d. pursuant to an Order of the Master of the Rolls dated 16 January 1870.

Town Lands. By indentures of feoffment dated 26 March 38 Eliz. four messuages and half one yardland of arable, meadow, and pasture ground lying in the town fields of Southam, and also five other messuages and one yardland of arable, meadow, and pasture ground there, were conveyed to trustees for the relief of the poor of the town of Southam and towards repairing the bridges and highways in the said town. By a subsequent decree under a Commission of Charitable Uses filed in Chancery 20 and 21 Charles II it was ordered that these nine messuages and land, called Town Lands, shall be employed for the relief of the poor of the said parish and for the maintenance of the highways and bridges.

The above-mentioned charities are now regulated

by schemes of the Charity Commissioners dated 4 October 1910 and 31 August 1923 under the title of the United Charities. The schemes appoint a body of trustees to administer the charities and contain provisions for the application of the income of the charities which amount to £133 approximately.

William Simpson by will dated 13 November 1854 bequeathed to the rector and churchwardens £100, the interest to be applied annually in support of a church choir. The testator's estate was insufficient for the payment of all the legacies in full and this charitable legacy was abated to £55 11s. 1d. pursuant to an Order of the Master of the Rolls dated 16 January 1870. The annual income of the charity amounts to £1 9s. 8d.

Margaret Keenan by codicil dated 21 October 1898 to her will dated 22 March 1897 directed her trustee to invest £275 and pay the interest for the maintenance and support of an orphan in the Southam Roman Catholic Orphanage. By an Order of the Charity Commissioners dated 27 March 1908 the Mother Superior and the Treasurer of the Orphanage were appointed to be trustees for the administration of the charity, of which the income amounts to £8 8s. 8d.

Rebecca Toomer by will dated 29 April 1884 gave the residue of her estate unto the five churches therein mentioned including Southam. The share of the charity for this parish is regulated by a scheme of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 9 January 1889 which provides that the trustees should be the rector and churchwardens and that the income, which amounts to £26 7s. 4d., shall be applied in the maintenance of the fabric of the church and of the services of the church, and of the furniture thereof.

The Rev. William Lilley Smith by will dated 2 March 1893 bequeathed to the trustees of the Smith Memorial Charity (otherwise known as 'Southam Eye and Ear Infirmary') at Southam £3,000 towards establishing in the buildings of the said Charity a Sanatorium and Nursing Home, or for other purposes as mentioned therein; upon condition that they place or allow to be placed on the stone pedestal erected by the testator in the grounds of the Institution to mark the site of the first Provident Dispensary in the United Kingdom the inscription which he thereafter directed should be so placed. A scheme established by the Charity Commissioners on 28 June 1898 provided that the charity and the endowment thereof, consisting of the sum of £3,000, shall be administered by the trustees thereof (being the body of trustees constituted by a scheme of the said Commissioners of 22 November 1878 of the charity known as the Southam Infirmary for Diseases of the Eye and Ear established in memory of Henry Lilley Smith, late of Southam, surgeon). The income can now be applied to the support of any eye and ear hospital in England or Wales. The scheme further provides that a yearly sum of not less than £25 and not more than £35 out of the net income of the charity shall be applied towards the maintenance of a nurse at Southam for the benefit of the poor of the parish and neighbourhood. The testator also gave to the said trustees £200, the income to be applied in keeping in good repair the memorial stone upon the Infirmary Buildings, and the pedestal (mentioned above) lately erected by himself, and in planting and keeping up the ornamental grounds in

<sup>95</sup> Dugd. 339; *Cal. Pat.* 1446-52, p. 564.

<sup>96</sup> Dugd. 339.

<sup>97</sup> *Falor Ecdl. (Rec. Com.)*, iii, 62, 133.

<sup>98</sup> Dugd. 340.

<sup>99</sup> 'Mr Brafeld' held one-thirtysecond of the manor in 1730: *ibid.* 338.

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front of the Infirmary Buildings. By a scheme of the said Commissioners dated 13 March 1908 it was provided that the trustees shall appropriate a small piece of land as a site for the said memorial pedestal stone and vase.

Recreation Ground. By an Indenture dated 29 November 1923 Arthur Turner conveyed to the parish council of Southam the piece of land called Bury Orchard upon trust to hold the same for such purposes as the council may resolve upon for the benefit of the inhabitants of the parish of Southam or any part thereof.

Sarah Chamberlayne. A scheme for the application of the Residuary Charitable Gift contained in the will of Sarah Chamberlayne dated 13 January 1858 was approved by the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice on 22 December 1894. By the scheme a body of trustees was appointed to administer the income, and it was provided that subject to certain payments and events the income be applied (a) in the payment to ten poor widows or unmarried women not

under the age of 50 years, or poor aged men, or crippled, or blind, or deaf and dumb males or females belonging to this parish, of the monthly sum of not exceeding £1 each; (b) in the payment to two of the said ten poor women or other persons or person, as the case may require, resident in the parish, the monthly sum of 15s. each, in order that each of them may board and maintain, take care of and keep one poor child who shall have lost both its parents, or who shall be blind, or crippled, or infirm, whether in body or mind, to be named by the trustees. By a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 3 November 1916 it was provided that the maximum sum payable to the ten poor widows as mentioned in (a) above be increased from £1 to £1 1s. 8d., and by another scheme of the said Commissioners dated 12 April 1927 it was provided that if and so far as the trustees are unable to apply the sum of £18 as provided in (b) above they may apply it in such manner as they consider most advantageous for the benefit of any poor child or children possessing the required qualifications.

## STOCKTON

Acreeage: 1,391.

Population: 1911, 975; 1921, 1,006; 1931, 935.

Stockton is a parish and large village 2 miles north-east of Southam. It occupies a low hill in the gently sloping country-side of south-eastern Warwickshire, with no very prominent natural features; the courses of the numerous small streams have been much disturbed by the construction of the Warwick branch of the Oxford Canal which runs along the northern edge of the parish, and there is very little woodland. The parish is crossed by the second-class road from Southam to Rugby from south-west to north-east and at right angles to this by a road from Napton to Long Itchington, the village, a good example of the nucleated type common in the Feldon country, being situated along and off the Napton road a short distance south-east of the cross-roads. The Weedon and Leamington Spa branch of the former L.M.S.R. crosses the northern edge of the parish; Napton and Stockton Station, about a mile north-east of the village, being just outside the boundary. The inclosure of the parish was being considered in 1778,<sup>1</sup> but the Act of Parliament, dealing with 1,320 acres, was not passed till 1791.<sup>2</sup>

The Blue Lias subsoil has long been known as a valuable source for the manufacture of lime and cement, and by 1850 the workings were described as 'very extensive'.<sup>3</sup> Stockton cement has been used in many large contracting works, including the Victoria Embankment, London.<sup>4</sup> The quarries extend into the parishes of Long Itchington and Southam (though the best ones are said to be those north and east of Stockton village, the earliest to be worked) and, covering nearly all the northern and western portions of Stockton parish, form the largest stretch of non-agricultural land in the rural half of Warwickshire. Stockton, in fact, has more the character of an industrial village than any in Knightlow Hundred except Bedworth and its

neighbours on the coalfield; the population trebled during the 19th century, at a rate comparable with Alcester, Bedworth, or Kenilworth, and Stockton was one of the very few rural parishes where voluntary provision of school facilities was inadequate and a School Board was formed (1878). The lime and cement works formerly owned by Messrs. Charles Nelson & Co. Ltd., who provided a workmen's club at a cost of £2,000, are now controlled by the Rugby Portland Cement Co. Ltd. The predominantly industrial character of the village is shown by the adoption of the name 'Blue Lias' for one of its inns, a typical canal-bank public house in the quarry area, where the Long Itchington road crosses the canal near a series of locks. The title-deeds of this inn date back to 1809.<sup>5</sup>

A windmill is mentioned at various dates from 1356 onwards.<sup>6</sup>

STOCKTON does not figure in Domesday MANOR day Book, but Dugdale<sup>7</sup> is no doubt right in considering it to have formed part of the large and valuable manor of Long Itchington, of which it was afterwards held.<sup>8</sup> Walter de Somerville held a virgate of land here in the reign of Henry II,<sup>9</sup> which he may have obtained through his wife Cecily de Limes, whose family were overlords of Long Itchington and Stockton.<sup>10</sup> Robert de Somerville, of the fifth generation from Walter, obtained the right of free warren in his demesne lands here in 1290.<sup>11</sup> His son Roger died seized of the manor in 1338, when it was held of William Corbet.<sup>12</sup> His brother and successor Philip settled it, except for 2 messuages and 2 bovates, on himself and his male heirs, with remainders to Rees ap Griffith and Joan his wife (Philip's daughter) for the life of Joan, to Rees's sons Thomas and Rees in tail successively, or to the right heirs of Joan.<sup>13</sup> After his death in 1356 the pleas and perquisites of court were stated to be worth only 2s. a year because the

<sup>1</sup> *Illus. MSS. Com. 10th Rep. Appx. pt. 6, p. 23* (Letter from the Earl of Dartmouth to John Robinson, Secretary of the Treasury, in Abergavenny MSS.).

<sup>2</sup> Slater, *Engl. Peasantry and Encl.* 303.

<sup>3</sup> White, *Directory Warwick*, 701.

<sup>4</sup> Mee, *Warwickshire*, 228.

<sup>5</sup> *Infim. Mr. H. S. Glennon, landlord.*

<sup>6</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* viii, 140; Feet of F. Warw. East. 26 Hen. VIII, and Mich. 35 Hen. VIII.

<sup>7</sup> Dugd. 340.

<sup>8</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* x, 254.

<sup>9</sup> *Wm. Salt Soc.* iv, 150.

<sup>10</sup> Dugd. 341.

<sup>11</sup> *Cal. Chart. R.* ii, 342.

<sup>12</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* viii, 140. Philip de Somerville, his brother, in 1345 gave Isabel, formerly wife of Thomas Corbet, a life tenure of two parts of the manor in accordance with a gift made by John de Somerville to her and her husband: *Wm. Salt Soc.* xii, 59-60.

<sup>13</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xv), 1831.



manor was within the view of the manor of Long Itchington.<sup>14</sup> Rees ap Griffith the elder died the same year (1356), being survived by his wife and son Rees.<sup>15</sup> The manor continued to be held by this family of the Odingsels of Long Itchington for nearly two hundred years.<sup>16</sup> In 1543 George Griffith passed it to Sir Walter Smyth,<sup>17</sup> and the latter to Nicholas Purefoy of Shalstone (Bucks.) four years later.<sup>18</sup> Stockton seems to have descended to William Purefoy of Hollingbourne (Kent), a younger grandson of Nicholas, who on the marriage (1580) of his son Edward to Joyce, eldest daughter of George Purefoy of Drayton (Leics.) settled the manor on them, with a life interest to his sister-in-law Anne, wife of John Purefoy of Shalstone, remainder to the heirs of Edward and Joyce and to his own right heirs.<sup>19</sup> Anne outlived Edward who died in 1594 when his son and heir George was 11 years old.<sup>20</sup> The latter dealt with the manor in 1605,<sup>21</sup> probably a settlement on his coming of age, made a settlement on his marriage to Mary (Knightley) in 1610,<sup>22</sup> and finally sold it to John Clapham, one of the Six Clerks of Chancery, and his heirs in 1613.<sup>23</sup> This John Clapham died without issue in 1618,<sup>24</sup> when the manor devolved on his cousin and namesake, of Willenhall (Coventry),<sup>25</sup> whose son Luke was dealing with it during the Commonwealth,<sup>26</sup> after which the exact descent is not clear. It is found in the Harvey family from 1705;<sup>27</sup> Robert Harvey, who was then lord, was a nephew of Hugh Audley (d. 1662), a legal officer of the Crown like the first John Clapham. Audley amassed a fortune of £400,000<sup>28</sup> and by an indenture of 1656 settled his estates, which included manors in Warwickshire and other counties, on his nephew.<sup>29</sup> Robert Harvey divided his inherited property, that in Warwickshire going to his third son, another Robert, who was associated with his father in his manorial dealings.<sup>30</sup> His grandson John was lord between 1728 and 1745,<sup>31</sup> taking the additional surname of Thursby on succeeding to the estates of that family (1736).<sup>32</sup> After his death in 1764 the manor came to the Biddulph family of Birdingbury, Sir Theophilus, 4th baronet, being vouchee in recoveries of 1782 and 1790.<sup>33</sup> It changed hands several times in the 19th century, the Rev. Charles Crane being lord from 1806 to 1821, the Rev. Samuel Parkins, rector of Stockton, in 1826, William Henry Seymour in 1831,<sup>34</sup> and William Hodgson in 1850, there being at the last date no less than eight 'principal landowners'.<sup>35</sup> By 1900 all manorial rights had disappeared.<sup>36</sup>

Property in Stockton which had belonged to Hertford Priory was in 1538 granted to Anthony Denny and Joan (Champernowne) his wife.<sup>37</sup> Forty years

later this property, apart from the advowson, amounted to 30s. in rents.<sup>38</sup>

The church of *ST. MICHAEL* stands *CHURCH* in a small churchyard on the south side of the village. It consists of chancel, nave, north and south aisles, west tower, vestry, and north porch. Except for the 15th-century tower and the 14th-century south wall of the chancel the church is modern. The nave and north aisle were built in 1863, the south aisle in 1873, and the chancel was partly rebuilt in 1809.

The east end of the chancel is built of squared and coursed brown sandstone with red sandstone dressings, the upper part being rebuilt and the east window renewed in 1809; there is a shield bearing this date above the window. The tracery window has a pointed arch of two plays with three trefoil lights and a hood-mould. The north side is partly covered by a modern vestry and has a modern plain tracery window of two trefoil lights. On the south side to the east there is a two-light window similar to the one on the north, and in the centre there is a narrow doorway of 14th-century date with a pointed arch of one play, with a 15th-century square-headed window of two trefoil lights to the west. The south aisle, which has a low-pitched lead-covered roof, is built of squared and coursed limestone with bands of sandstone at the levels of the sills and springers of the window-heads. In the east wall is a two-light window, and on the south side four windows, similar to those to the chancel; and on the west wall is a single pointed trefoil light with a hood-mould. In the clearstory, which has a band of sandstone level with the centres of the windows, there are three circular lights. The nave roof is tiled. The north aisle and clearstory have bands of sandstone as on the south. There are three windows, all alike with two ogee trefoil lights with pointed arches and hood-moulds, two east of the porch and the other west. The west end has a single pointed trefoil light, and the clearstory three lights, as on the south. The porch has a pointed stone vaulted roof, stone benches, and small rectangular unglazed windows, one on either side. The entrance has a pointed arch with its mouldings continued down to played stops, and a hood-mould with return ends. The south doorway is similar but has a segmental-pointed head.

The vestry is a continuation of the aisle but with a steep-pitched tiled roof. On the north it has an early 15th-century window similar to the one in the south side of the chancel, but with a low-side window under its sill, the sill forming its head, evidently removed from the north wall of the chancel; the low-side window appears to have been reduced in height to suit its new position. On the east there is a window similar to those in the south aisle.

The tower, which has a plinth of one play, is in three stages and built of brown sandstone ashlar to half-way up the first stage, and above of red sandstone



GRIFFITH. Gules a fesse dancetty between six lions or with three martlets sable on the fesse.

<sup>14</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* x, 254.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.* x, 323.

<sup>16</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 3 Ric. II, 311.

<sup>17</sup> *Hen. IV*, 19; *11 Edw. IV*, 30; *21 Edw.*

*IV*, 41.

<sup>18</sup> *Feet of F. Warw. Mich.* 35 Hen.

*VIII*, 18 *Ibid.* East. 1 Edw. VI.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.* Div. Cos. Mich. 22-3 Eliz.

<sup>20</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), ccxlv, 91.

<sup>21</sup> *Feet of F. Div. Cos. Mich.* 3 Jas. I.

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid.* Mich. 8 Jas. I.

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.* Trin. 11 Jas. I.

<sup>24</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cccxxvi, 105.

<sup>25</sup> *Dugd.* 341; *Vint. Warw.* 1619

(*Harl. Soc.* xii), 367.

<sup>26</sup> *Feet of F. Warw. East.* 1650; *East.*

*1652.*

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid.* East. 4 Anne.

<sup>28</sup> *Dict. Nat. Biog.* His name is commemorated in North and South Audley Streets, which were laid out on part of his estates.

<sup>29</sup> *Baker, Northants.* i, 11.

<sup>30</sup> *Feet of F. East.* 4, and Trin. 11 Anne.

<sup>31</sup> *Gamekeepers' Deputations*, Shire

Hall, Warwick.

<sup>32</sup> *Recov. R. Mich.* 23 Geo. III, ro. 359;

*Hil.* 10 Geo. III, ro. 307.

<sup>33</sup> *Gamekeepers' Deputations.*

<sup>34</sup> *White, Directory Warw.* 201.

<sup>35</sup> *Kelly, Directory Warw.* 'There is no manor'.

<sup>36</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xiii (1), 384 (47).

<sup>37</sup> *Feet of F. Warw. Mich.* 22-3 and Trin. 44 Eliz.

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ashlar in large blocks, each stage being diminished slightly by weathered offsets. There are buttresses rising in four stages at each corner, those on the west being diagonal, and the tower is finished with an embattled parapet resting on a hollow moulding with gargoyles in the centre, flanked by human heads in the hollow of the moulding, and with similar heads at each of the angles. In each merlon there is a shield, and at the angles pinnacles with trefoil panels and crocketed finials. On the west in the lower stage there is a tracery window in a deep splay, of two trefoil lights with a pointed arch; the tracery and mullions are modern, the arch original. On the south are two loop-lights one each in the first and second stages and a small rectangular window in the second stage. The belfry windows on all four faces are two-light, of two splayed orders, with transoms and four-centred arches, the upper lights trefoiled and the lower cinquefoil, except on the east which has all trefoil lights. On the north there is a clock in the second stage.

The chancel (27 ft. 4 in. by 16 ft.) has a modern tiled floor with two steps to the altar, a modern hammer-beam roof, and plastered walls. The modern windows have pointed rear-arches and the south door a segmental. The door to the vestry has a pointed arch and adjoining it on the west there is an arch resting on moulded corbels, under which the organ is placed. On the south wall there is a white marble monument to Ellen Pilkington, died 1689.

The nave (53 ft. by 16 ft. 1 in.) has a tiled floor and an open collar-beam roof. The clearstory windows have wide splayed recesses with stop-chamfered pointed rear-arches. The north and south arcades are each of four bays with pointed arches of two splayed orders, the outer one hollow, resting on octagonal pillars with moulded capitals and bases and half-octagon responds at the ends. The font is placed near the west pillar of the north arcade and is modern, on a 14th-century base and probably a copy of the original basin. It is octagonal with moulded trefoil panels on each face and floriated crosses on each of the angles, resting on floriated stops and carried down by a fluted splay to a circular stem having a moulded capital and base. The oak pulpit, placed to the north of the chancel arch, is modern. The chancel arch is pointed, of two splayed orders, with moulded capitals but no visible bases; the responds repeat the arch orders. The tower arch has two splays on the nave side and three on the tower side, the inner resting on moulded capitals, the outer continued down to the floor and on the tower side they die out on the walls of the tower.

The north aisle (47 ft. by 11 ft.) is paved with stone and has a lean-to roof with wall brackets on stone corbels. At the east end there is a pointed arched opening to the vestry, of two splayed orders, resting on short shafts with moulded capitals and bases. The windows have pointed rear-arches, stop-chamfered, and the south door a segmental one.

The south aisle (47 ft. 10 in. by 11 ft.) is similar to the south but has a mutilated 14th-century piscina built very low into the south wall near the east wall. It has a moulded ogee head with a trefoil traceried

panel at the back of the recess; the projecting basin has been broken off.

The tower is stone-paved and in the south-west corner the angle is splayed for the tower stair, the doorway of which has a moulded four-centred head with the moulding carried down to stop on a splayed threshold. Below the west window, which has a pointed rear-arch, there is a blocked door opening with a chamfered segmental head which is not visible externally.

There are three bells: one by Newcombe of Leicester, 1608, the other two by Hugh Watts, 1620 and 1622.<sup>39</sup>

The plate includes a silver chalice and two plated dishes of 1805.

The registers commence 1567.

The church was given to Hertford ADOVWSON Priory, probably by Walter de Somerville, whose wife Cecily (de Limesi) was a descendant of the founder, in the reign of Henry II.<sup>40</sup> In 1249 a lawsuit occurred, John de Somerville claiming the advowson through his grandmother Maud who held the manor in dower of her husband's gift, having made a presentation, against the Prior of Hertford, who claimed that the right had been confirmed as his after a previous suit, and by Otto the papal legate. Judgement was for the prior,<sup>41</sup> and three years later John de Somerville quitclaimed all his rights in the advowson to the priory.<sup>42</sup> The church was worth £6 in 1291<sup>43</sup> and in 1535 £10 7s. in addition to 30r. pensions to the priory and 3s. to the archdeacon.<sup>44</sup> After the Dissolution the first presentation (1545) was made by Anthony Denny, to whom Hertford Priory and its estates had been granted,<sup>45</sup> and Edward Denny, his second son, conveyed it to William Carewe in 1580;<sup>46</sup> the latter passed it to Humphrey Davies in 1603.<sup>47</sup> Thomas Davies presented in 1628,<sup>48</sup> since when the advowson has passed through a large number of hands. Robert Martin obtained it in 1664 from Henry Ganderton and Mary his wife and presented in 1673;<sup>49</sup> Martin Mugg was patron in 1713, and Jane Mugg, widow, in 1729.<sup>50</sup> John Holland and Elizabeth his wife conveyed it to John Unwin in 1754,<sup>51</sup> and the latter was patron in 1763.<sup>52</sup> By 1830<sup>53</sup> the advowson was in the hands of New College, Oxford, who still hold it.

Though the church was not inappropriate, the tithes had become separated from the rectory in the early 17th century. They were passed in 1615 by Francis Browne and Jane his wife to James Enyon senior and junior.<sup>54</sup> James Enyon senior settled them two years later on his son-in-law Hannibal Horsey and his son James, with remainder to James Enyon junior, but the agreed yearly rent being unpaid the settlement was void.<sup>55</sup>

William Smith. This parish participates in this charity to the amount of 4s. each year, which in accordance with the terms of the bequest is required to be distributed in bread to the poorest people of the parish. For particulars of the charity see under Birdingbury.

Church Allotment. Upon the inclosure of the common fields of Stockton in 1792 there was awarded to the

<sup>39</sup> Tilley and Walters, *Church Bells of Warwick*, 222.

<sup>40</sup> Dugd. 341.

<sup>41</sup> *Wm. Salt. Soc.* iv, 114-15.

<sup>42</sup> *Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xi)*, 906.

<sup>43</sup> *Tax. Eccl. (Rec. Com.)*, 242.

<sup>44</sup> *Valor Eccl. (Rec. Com.)*, iii, 62.

<sup>45</sup> Dugd. 342; *L. and P. Hen. VIII.* xiii (1), 384 (47).

<sup>46</sup> *Feet of F. Warw. Mich.* 22-3 Eliz.; *Recov. R. Hil.* 23 Eliz. ro. 1129.

<sup>47</sup> *Feet of F. Warw. Hil.* 45 Eliz.

<sup>48</sup> *Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.)*.

<sup>49</sup> *Feet of F. Warw. Mich.* 16 Chas. II;

*Inst. Bks. P.R.O.*

<sup>50</sup> *Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.)*.

<sup>51</sup> *Feet of F. Warw. Hil.* 27 Geo. II.

<sup>52</sup> *Ecclon. Theaurus*, 94.

<sup>53</sup> *Lewis, Top. Dict.*

<sup>54</sup> *Feet of F. Warw. Mich.* 13 Jas. I.

<sup>55</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2)*, cccclxvi, 96.

churchwardens of the parish, in lieu of several green slades commonly called Church Meers, or Slades, a plot of land lying in Long Highlands containing 13 a. 2 r. 4 p. It is stated in the printed Parliamentary Reports of the former Commissioners for Inquiring Concerning Charities, dated in 1827, that it is unknown from what source the lands were derived in respect of which this allotment was made, but the rents appear to have been always applied to the repairs of the church. The Report also states that some time after the awarding

of this allotment it was discovered that it contained a rock of limestone, which was thereupon sold, and that of the £937 10s. received all but £440 was expended in effecting substantial repairs and improvements to the parish church. The quarry was exhausted and the works ceased about 1820. Part of the allotment, containing 4 a. 2 r. 24 p., was conveyed to the Warwick and Napton Canal Navigation Co. in 1798 in consideration of an annual rent of £9 6s.

## STONELEIGH

Acreage: 10,031 (now 6,381).

Population: 1911, 1,400; 1921, 1,893; 1931 (modern parish, 897).

This large parish, formerly 6 miles in depth from north to south, with a breadth of 5 miles in the south and 2 miles in the north, lies to the west and south of the city of Coventry, into which much of it has been absorbed in recent years. The northern portion of the parish was constituted the ecclesiastical parish of Westwood in 1846, with the church of St. John the Baptist, built of stone in the Early English style on a site given by Lord Leigh and largely at his expense. Westwood, with its hamlets of Fletchamstead, Canley, and Tile Hill, was included within the city boundary in 1927, and other parts of the parish were added under the Coventry Extension Act of 1931.<sup>1</sup>

A perambulation of Stoneleigh,<sup>2</sup> apparently made at the end of the 14th century, gives the northern boundary as the Allesley Brook as far as the end of 'Coplestone [Cuphill Lane] by the gallows of Allesley', down that lane, which divides it from the manor of Chylesmore, by the little stream of 'Whiskeresyche' past 'Horewell' [Hearsall], down another stream to 'the way between Ashul and Nytynggalelane' and so to the road which divides 'Helynhull' [in Hill] from Stivichall. Then by the 'Merdensyche' into the River Sowe and down that river to the lower mill of Baginton, thence across the fields by Finbury to the Avon and down that river to Cloud Bridge; so by a lane to 'Wethele' [Waverley] Wood, past the heath of Weston-under-Wetherley to Leicester Lane and then to the brook dividing Home Grange from Cubbington, and so into the Avon and up it, past the sluice-gates of Home Grange. The landmarks are then not identifiable until 'Wolfesbrigge' [Westley Bridge] and the Millburn Brook are reached. The boundary then runs by Crackley 'opposite the spring called Manypenywele',<sup>3</sup> between the Hale [Hale's Cottages] and Bockenden, past Westwood [Black Waste Wood], along the edge of Berkswell parish up to 'a stream which runs in winter' into Allesley Brook.

The Sowe runs roughly from north to south past Stoneleigh village, just below which it enters the Avon, which makes a series of deep bends through Stoneleigh Park. In 1279 the Abbot of Stoneleigh was returned

as holding the two rivers, Avon for 2 leagues and Sowe for 1 league, in which all the freeholders had the right to take fish for their own tables but not for sale.<sup>5</sup> There were two mills attached to the manor in 1086, yielding the unusually large sum of 35s. 4d.;<sup>6</sup> in 1291 they were worth 20s.,<sup>7</sup> in addition to which there was a mill at Home Grange (south of the abbey) worth 6s., and others at Stareton and Cryfield, each worth 5s. The Home Grange mill, with its pond and a 'holm', or island, in the Avon extending from the mill bays to Alfletford, was leased by the convent to Walter Whitwebbe, merchant of Coventry, in 1367;<sup>8</sup> and Cryfield mill, which probably gave its name to the Millburn, was also leased about the same time.<sup>9</sup> In 1535 the monks were receiving £15 10s. yearly from the rents of six mills.<sup>10</sup> Most of them had probably been converted for use in connexion with the cloth industry of Coventry, as in 1546 the property granted to Katherine, Duchess of Suffolk, included a 'walke' (or fulling) mill in Stoneleigh, in the tenure of Thomas Pye; a fulling mill and a grain mill called Stoneleigh Mills, in the tenure of Robert Andrewes; a fulling mill in Cryfield, in the tenure of William Alynson; two others close to the late monastery, in the tenure of Thomas Hethe and William Walton; and another in the tenure of James Gandye.<sup>11</sup> Two mills, one of them a fulling mill, passed with Stoneleigh Grange to the Underhills.<sup>12</sup> A water-mill is found attached to the manor of Nether Fletchamstead from 1513 to 1674.<sup>13</sup>

The Domesday Survey shows woodland in the manor 4 leagues long by 2 leagues broad, giving food for 2,000 swine,<sup>14</sup> and even at the present time there are, in addition to the well-timbered Park, many extensive blocks of woodland, particularly on the west at Crackley Wood and on the high ground north of this round Tile Hill. The site eventually chosen for the Cistercian Abbey of Stoneleigh was bounded on the north by 'the thick wood of Echills', now part of the Park, and soon after their settlement there the monks asserted part of Hurst to form what became the grange of Bockenden,<sup>15</sup> and reference to assarts in Stoneleigh occurs in 1176.<sup>16</sup> In 1279 the abbot was said to have three common woods, 'Dalle' [? near Dale House], Westwood, and 'Crattelle' [Crackley], containing 1,000 acres of wood and waste.<sup>17</sup> Ten years later

<sup>1</sup> Kelly, *Directory of Warwick*, (1936).

<sup>2</sup> Stowe MS. 795, fol. 122 v.-5. This is derived from the Leger Book of Stoneleigh (fol. 176-7). For the loan of advance proofs of the Leger Book, which is being printed from Lord Leigh's MS. by the Dugdale Society, I am indebted to Mr. Levi Fox, F.S.A.

<sup>3</sup> 'Merdensiche' is mentioned in the bounds of Stivichall in 1140: *Coventry Leger Book* (E.E.T.S.), 12.

<sup>4</sup> Marked on 6 in. O.S. map as 'The Spring' opposite Crackley Farm.

<sup>5</sup> Exch. K.R. Misc. Bks. 15, fol.

17 v.

<sup>6</sup> *F.C.H. Warwick*, i, 301.

<sup>7</sup> *Tax. Eccl. (Rec. Com.)*, 255.

<sup>8</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1367-70, p. 1.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.* 1361-4, p. 460.

<sup>10</sup> *Valor Eccl. (Rec. Com.)*, iii, 67.

<sup>11</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xxi (1), 504 (20).

<sup>12</sup> Early Chan. Proc. 1371, nos. 64-8;

Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 5 and 6 Ph. and M.

<sup>13</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), xxviii, 139;

Feet of F. Warw. Hil. 2 Edw. VI; Mich. 6-7 Eliz.; *Recov. R. Mich.* 26 Chas. II, ro, 280.

<sup>14</sup> *F.C.H. Warwick*, i, 401.

<sup>15</sup> *Dugd.* 264.

<sup>16</sup> *Pipe R. Soc.* xxv, 179. Cf. *Anct. D. (P.R.O.)*, D. 3387.

<sup>17</sup> Exch. K.R. Misc. Bks. 15, fol. 17 v.

mention is made of 111½ acres of land approved from waste, mostly round Helenhull<sup>18</sup> but including 12 acres of the moor of Canley, which was part of the 'new moor' of which the monks made a grant in 1358, reserving the right to approve the rest of the moor.<sup>19</sup> This grant had been made under a licence, issued in 1326, to lease wastes which they had brought into cultivation.<sup>20</sup> Some still remained uncultivated at the Dissolution, Fellesley waste, Gregpole waste, and Welshman's waste being connected with Millburn grange,<sup>21</sup> and Dycons waste and Cokes waste with Cryfield in 1538.<sup>22</sup> The monks' agricultural activity was not entirely beneficial, as by the beginning of the 16th century the abbot had converted much arable to pasture, putting 2 ploughs out of use and rendering 16 persons homeless.<sup>23</sup> Even before this there had been much depopulation, so that by the beginning of the reign of Henry VII out of 19 houses at Hurst only one was left, at Cryfield out of 12 only the Grange, at Finham 8 houses out of 12 had gone, and Millburn was completely depopulated.<sup>24</sup> In Fletchamstead John Smyth inclosed 100 acres to make a deer park, and his son Henry enlarged the park by taking in another 100 acres of arable, so rendering 4 ploughs idle and 26 persons homeless.<sup>25</sup> In 1616 Sir Thomas Leigh had licence to impark 700 acres,<sup>26</sup> and in 1640 his son was allowed to inclose another 80 acres.<sup>27</sup>

One road from Coventry enters the parish at Canley, where there has been much building in recent years, and runs south-west to Kenilworth, passing Cryfield on the west and Millburn on the east. Parallel with it a little to the east is the Leamington Branch of the former L.M.S. Railway. The Kenilworth Branch of that railway crosses the western part of the parish from north-west to south-east, and the main Birmingham-Rugby line runs from east to west, passing Whoberley, a hamlet of which the greater part was taken into the county of the City of Coventry in 1451,<sup>28</sup> Fletchamstead, and Westwood, with a station at Tile Hill, all this district being now suburbs of Coventry. A second road from Coventry runs due south to Finham Bridge, where it forks, the main branch continuing to Leamington through Stoneleigh Park, crossing the Avon by Stare Bridge, near the hamlet of Stareton. The other branch leads south-west to Leek Wotton. Between the two nearly a mile south of the fork lies the village of Stoneleigh, south of which, at the junction of the Sowe and Avon, is Motslow Hill, where the manorial courts were formerly held. A road east from the village, across the Sowe, skirts the park and, crossing the Avon at Cloud Bridge, runs south past Wetheley (now corrupted to Waverley). It was shown in 1352 that Cloud Bridge had originally been built by a hermit out of alms given to him and that therefore no one was responsible for its repair; and that, anyhow, there was another bridge quite near<sup>29</sup>—presumably referring to Stare Bridge. In 1635 it was decided that Cloud Bridge was to be repaired by the county and not by the inhabitants of Stoneleigh, and this was reaffirmed in 1668.<sup>30</sup> The present bridge, of red sandstone with three elliptical arches, was built early in the 19th century to replace an earlier bridge.

Stare Bridge over the River Avon on the main

Leamington-Coventry road, a little to the west of Stareton, is built of red sandstone and dates from about the end of the 15th century. A long bridge of nine arches with a slight camber, it is 10 ft. wide between the parapets. On the east, or upstream, side there are three large cutwaters carried up to form refuges, which have been refaced. The remaining cutwaters have all been lowered to the level of the carriageway, and the parapet rebuilt straight. Five arches at the southern end are pointed, of two square orders; the next two segmental, and the remaining two pointed. The west side has no cutwaters and all the outer arches have been rebuilt with buttresses of varying sizes added on each side of them. Between the two southern arches on the west side, part of the original wall face remains with a plinth of three successive splay. The parapets are modern. The river now flows through the three southern arches only, the remainder acting as flood arches. The bridge is now disused, the road being diverted and a new bridge constructed a little to the east. The old bridge is scheduled under the Ancient Monuments Acts.

The Manor House, to the north of the church, was built about the middle of the 16th century. It is a close-framed timber structure of two stories on a red sandstone splayed plinth, the main front to the south, originally L-shaped, with a west wing added at the beginning of the 17th century. Although the south front has been restored, most of the timber-framing is original, the windows, roofs, and barge-boards being modern. There are three gables, a wide one projected on coves at each end and a smaller central one of a steeper pitch without a projection. At the west end is a massive outside chimney of red sandstone ashlar, diminished by a succession of splay to a brick stack. The east front is almost entirely original, retaining its wattle and plaster panels and two original windows with splayed oak frames and mullions. Sawn off tenons below a later first-floor window indicate that the original first-floor windows projected on brackets. There is a modern addition, with a bay window, to the west wing, and the walls, except the gable end, have been rebuilt with brickwork. At the back all the walls have been rebuilt and modern buildings joining the two wings now form an enclosed courtyard. Internally the house has been entirely replanned, but five of the original red sandstone fire-places survive, four in the east wing and one in the centre block. Those in the east wing are back to back and above each other. On the ground floor the one on the north side is low, with an almost flat four-centred moulded arch, the moulding continued down the jambs to a splayed stop, and has a fire-back of herringbone brickwork. On the south side is a more elaborate one, 6 ft. 1 in. high, with a moulded shelf. It has a very flat four-centred moulded arch in a square frame formed by the outer member of the jamb mouldings, which finish on double splayed stops. The room is panelled from floor to ceiling with contemporary oak panelling with a narrow panelled frieze, evidently re-used, as the panels and mouldings vary in size and detail. The centre beam is stop-chamfered and the ceiling plastered in two panels with a small moulded cornice. The two fire-places above are

<sup>18</sup> Stowe MS. 795, fol. 129 v.

<sup>19</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1354-8, p. 647.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.* 1324-7, p. 255.

<sup>21</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII.* xiii (1), 887 (12).

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid.* xiii (2), 734 (9).

<sup>23</sup> *Lesdam, Domesday of Inclosures*, 450.

<sup>24</sup> *Dugd.* 263-6; *Rous, Hist. Regum Anglae* (1744), 123.

<sup>25</sup> *Lesdam*, op. cit. 440-1.

<sup>26</sup> *Cal. S. P. Dom.* 1611-18, p. 352.

<sup>27</sup> *Pat.* 16 Chas. I, pt. 2.

<sup>28</sup> *Cal. Chart. R.* vi, 116.

<sup>29</sup> *Public Works* (Selden Soc. xi), ii, 218-19.

<sup>30</sup> *Warw. Co. Rect.* vi, 23. *Ibid.* v, 2.



similar to the one below on the north side. That in the centre block is similar to that in the south room but without the shelf.

A little north of the church is a row of ten almshouses dated 1594, founded by Sir Thomas and Dame Alice Leigh. The building, of red sandstone ashlar with a tiled roof, is symmetrical, with five doorways having a square window on either side and a single dormer window above. Five chimney-stacks with moulded caps are spaced out equally. This description applies to the north front, facing the street, and to the south, facing small gardens. Each doorway opens into a passage formed by timber-framed partitions with plastered panels. A door on either side gives access to a house of two rooms, one up and one down. The doorways have four-centred heads with a single chamfer continued down the jambs. The windows are square with splayed heads, jambs, and sills, the heads being of oak. These houses have been considerably restored, but on the lines of the original work.

On the north side of the main street is a rectangular timber-framed house, with a thatched roof and gables each end of cruck construction. The framing has brick fillings, some with two-inch bricks, probably part of the original filling. It is an interesting example of early-16th-century construction carrying on an earlier tradition. There is also a mutilated example a little east of the church.

Cryfield Grange, situated off the west side of the Kenilworth-Coventry road about half a mile north of Crackley, is an L-shaped house and although almost entirely rebuilt early in the 19th century, on its original foundations, still retains some features of interest. On the west side of the northern arm a length of original red sandstone ashlar splayed plinth is visible. Under the northern end of this wing is a slightly arched barrel-vaulted cellar of mid-16th-century date, with two blocked openings on the west side. On the south front of the eastern arm is a mid-16th-century two-storied gabled bay of red sandstone ashlar having a blocked window of four ogee-headed lights under a flat head with splayed jambs and sills. Above is a three-light square-headed window with ovolo-moulded jambs and mullions. On the north side of this wing is a two-story projecting bay, the lower story of modern brickwork supporting an early-18th-century timber-framed upper story, the timbers forming circles and half-circles on the west side and lozenges on the north.

Of Stoneleigh Abbey<sup>31</sup> and its monastic buildings, very few traces, apart from the Gatehouse, are externally visible to-day.

The Gatehouse, completed in 1346 by Adam de Hockele, sixteenth abbot (1309-49), although much restored and internally remodelled, is substantially unaltered externally. On the outward face, the entrance consists of a low-centred depressed arch, with a simple half-round moulding dying into the plain jambs. Above this is a window of two lights with tracery, a pointed quatrefoil between the ogee heads of the lights, all cusped, and both the mullions and the tracery faced with a half-round moulding. Above again, in the high-pitched gable, are the arms of England, as for Henry II as Founder of the Abbey, with helm and crest, and the shield set aslant—now hardly decipherable, but described by Dugdale.<sup>32</sup> The hinge sockets of the gates are in the jambs of this

archway, but the present gates are set some 5 ft. back within the entrance; they are of very rough construction and set in a heavy timber frame, and probably date from the 17th century. The entrance way has a ceiling of heavy timber, which may be original, though more probably of the 16th century.

Immediately inside the doors, on the west side of the entrance way, is a piece of timber set along the wall like a bench, but with ten holes, about 6 in. in diameter and the same distance apart, pierced through it. It appears to be coeval with the Gatehouse, but no satisfactory explanation of its use has been suggested. In the left-hand wall is a small blocked doorway.

The interior face of the Gatehouse is similar to the exterior, but the archway is here centred from the springing, and is entirely without mouldings. It has plain inner jambs which die into it above the spring, and within these a concentric arch, still further recessed, dies into the face of the jambs. Above is a two-light window similar to that on the outer face, but without the half-round moulding, and with the addition of a transom.

Adjoining the gateway to the east is a small dwelling house of which the western portion is undoubtedly part of the original structure. It has on the inner face a projecting porch, of which the inner door is now blocked. The entrance arch of this porch rises from corbels in the slightly splayed jambs, and has a double-ogee moulding. In the north-west corner of the porch is an opening to a very small spiral stair, leading to the first floor, but now blocked. Above the entrance arch is a heavy string-course, and a chamber above the porchway has a two-light window with tracery similar to that already described. Above again, in the gable, is a square-headed window of two lights. Access to the first floor of this building is now by an external staircase of post-monastic date, from the head of which a narrow entry leads to a bridge consisting of a half-arch abutting on the Gatehouse itself, and leading to the room on the inner side of it. This peculiar structure seems to be medieval, and the narrow entry to it has a vaulted ceiling of two miniature bays.

The remainder of the dwelling house, to the east, appears to be wholly an addition of 17th-century date, much repaired in the 19th century. The inner face of the Gatehouse has been refaced and the embattled parapet between the gables of the Gatehouse and the porch renewed, or added, early in the 19th century.

Of the Abbey Church nothing remains to be seen; but the present house is built on the four sides of a central open space roughly coincident with the cloister garth of the abbey. The centre of the north face of the house is of late-16th-century date, and consisted originally of a ground story with four round-headed openings, the plain arches rising from square imposts with moulded caps, and apparently filled in with wooden framework, for which the slots are visible. Above this was a first floor, containing a Long Gallery connecting the east and west wings, with attic rooms in the gables above. The Long Gallery was reached by an external double stair with a stone balustrade, of 17th-century date, and also by the main internal staircase in the three-story block at the north-east angle of the house. But the whole of this central portion was reconstructed in 1836, when the external stair was destroyed, the arched openings in the ground story bricked up, the ground and first stories thrown into

<sup>31</sup> We are indebted to Mr. S. C. Kaines Smith, F.S.A., for this description of the Abbey.

<sup>32</sup> Dugd. 257.

## A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

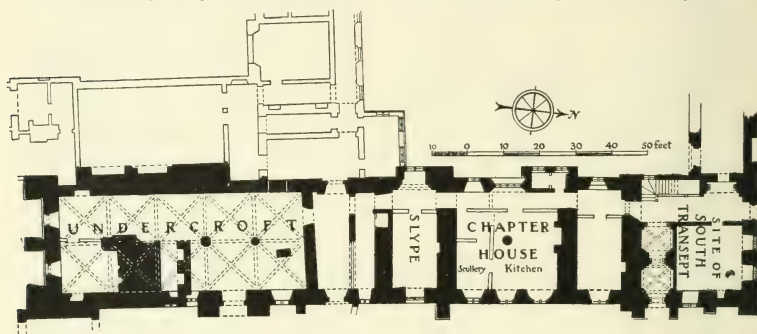
one, and a new porch built, thus substituting for the former entrance at the first-floor level the present entrance into a corridor at the ground level. These alterations were, however, carried out with a minimum of interference with the actual structure of the external wall, and in the upper part of this wall are three relieving arches of large span, for which it is difficult to account. They may possibly indicate the height and span of the arches of the south arcade of the nave of the church, for this portion of the house seems to have been built on the footwalls of the south aisle. The corridor opens at the eastern end into the north-east corner block, also of 16th-century date, and revealed on plan as being on the site of the south transept.

In this block, which is of three stories and attics, is the original staircase of the 16th century, with a richly carved oak balustrade, rising to the full height of the house, and with a plaster decorated ceiling at the head. This staircase originally opened at the first-floor level,

has been reinforced by an outer casing, also octagonal, but now partly broken away. At the south end of this undercroft are two original pointed windows, widely splayed. Externally they have been squared to take wooden window frames. The two windows in the east wall are both modern.

A rough rectangular pillar of masonry inserted in the first bay of the vaulting for additional support suggests that the vaulting showed signs of weakness when the post-Reformation house was built. But the division of the house into a series of units, corresponding to the division of the monastic buildings—transept, chapter house, undercroft, &c.—and resulting in an eastern façade of a succession of nine gables, seems to indicate that the older buildings were still standing and structurally sound to an appreciable height when the new building was begun.

All the fenestration of this wing, with the exceptions noted, is of the 16th century, but in almost every case



PLAN OF THE MEDIEVAL REMAINS OF STONELEIGH ABBEY

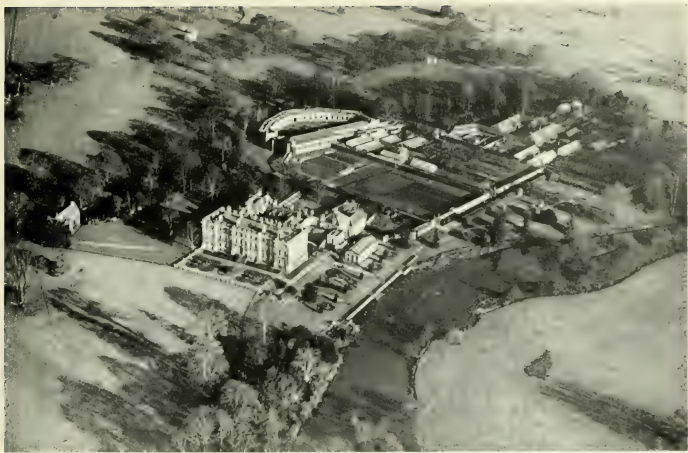
into the Long Gallery, which was the only means of communication between the east and west wings of the house. The alterations of 1836 necessitated a new means of communication, which will be described later.

The whole of the east wing follows the lines and embodies much of the actual ground-story structure of the monastic buildings, though much disguised by partitions of later date and by 19th-century imitations of 12th-century detail. The position of the Chapter House is indicated by a plain cylindrical pillar in the present kitchen in line with a former doorway (now a window) leading from the cloister, which retains the much decayed original 12th-century bases of its columns. To the southward, the slype, with what may have been the warming-house, shows traces of 14th-century building, and the whole of the southern half of this wing is occupied by an undercroft, probably that of the dormitory, in excellent preservation and of early-14th-century date. It is some 70 ft. by 28 ft. with a central row of four octagonal columns supporting five pairs of bays of quadripartite vaulting, of which the boldly projecting plain chamfered ribs rest, on the walls, on corbels of inverted ogee profile. The two southernmost columns are not now visible, being imbedded in the massive brickwork of 18th-century baking ovens and kitchen ranges, and the next to these

restored in the 19th century. All the buildings so far described are of red sandstone (Kenilworth stone).

In conspicuous contrast to the fortuitous nature of the east wing, arising out of the incorporation of older elements, the west wing is a model of unswerving symmetry. It was designed and built by Francis Smith of Warwick, for Edward, 3rd Lord Leigh, between 1714 and 1726. An estimate by him for the building, in the former year, is preserved at the Abbey, and an entry in the parish register of Cubbington, records 'This Vicaridge House finished May 1726, as was Lord Leigh's House at Stoneleigh'.

It is a parallelogram roughly 170 ft. by 45 ft. The west front contains a range of five State Apartments—a central entrance hall, flanked on the north by two drawing-rooms, and on the south by a dining-room, and a sitting-room of which the south windows overlook the Avon. The central hall and the northernmost and southernmost rooms project slightly in the façade, and are framed by Ionic pilasters at the angles of the projection. The elevation consists of a lower ground story, a main floor approached by an external flight of thirteen steps to the central doorway, bringing this floor to the level of the old Long Gallery on the north side of the house, and two upper stories, surmounted by a heavy projecting cornice and a balustrade. Each



STONELEIGH ABBEY, FROM THE AIR



THE VILLAGE OF STURTON IN 1507  
(from the Plan of the Stoneleigh Abbey Estate)



PLAN OF THE STONELEIGH ABBEY ESTATE, 1597



of the two upper stories has fifteen windows, five in the central section, three in each of the recessed sections, and two in each of the flanking sections. On the main floor, the central window is replaced by the doorway at the head of the stair, the only feature of the front enriched with sculptured decoration. On the main floor the windows have curved pediments, on the first floor triangular pediments, and on the top floor no pediments. The open portion of the balustrade stands above the windows; above the wall space between the windows there are solid panels in the balustrade.

Internally, the block is divided longitudinally into exactly equal portions. The back portion contains the main staircase, of which the first flight is axially opposite the main entrance and the double doors giving access to it from the central hall, across the narrow corridor which runs the length of the building from the Library at the north end to the Chapel at the south end. Francis Smith contrived to give the Chapel the combined height of the lower ground story and the main story, without disturbance of his exterior design, by making the entrance to the Gallery of the Chapel (used by the family) on the main floor, while the household entered the body of the Chapel by a doorway on the lower ground level.

On either side of the main staircase were two small parlours, one of which, on the southern side, remains; the other was involved in the only structural alteration which Smith's original design has undergone, the substitution of the corridor entrance at ground level for the old Long Gallery. A door from this Gallery led into the State Bedchamber of Smith's building. With the alteration of the entrance level, a new means of access from the old building to the new was contrived by building, at the back of Smith's wing, a stairway at right angles to the corridor and leading into a hall, also newly built out into the central open space of the cloister-garth; this opened into a vestibule formed by taking down the back wall of the small parlour, mentioned above, which opened into the corridor of the west wing. But the staircase now blocked the only window of the ante-room to the State Bedchamber, so that the party-wall between it and the Bedchamber had to be taken down, leaving only a pillar to support the upper floor. The State Bedchamber then became the Library, which opens into the small drawing-room at the north-west angle of the west wing, and so to the whole range of the State Apartments.

All that survives of Smith's interior decoration is the oak wainscot panelling with Ionic pilasters of the two northernmost rooms, the Silk Drawing-room, and the Velvet Drawing-room. The elaborate plaster decorations of the central Hall, illustrating the Labours of Hercules, with his Apotheosis as the ceiling design, were designed by Cipriani in 1765 for the fifth and last Lord Leigh of the first creation, in whose time also, about 1770, the south side of the house was built, together with the Conservatory and the adjoining long garden wall and gates. This addition to the house,

though not incongruous in design, is a story lower than the west wing upon which it abuts, and the effect is not pleasing. This building abuts at its eastern end upon the undercroft and the 16th-century upper story of the old building, thus completing the quadrangle.

STONELEIGH<sup>33</sup> was 'ancient demesne', MANORS having been held before the Conquest by

Edward the Confessor and retained in his own hands by William the Conqueror. It was rated at 6 hides,<sup>34</sup> but had probably been originally a ro-hide vill, as two estates belonging to it had been separated off by 1086, these being 3 virgates in Kenilworth<sup>35</sup> and 3 hides in 'Optone',<sup>36</sup> which is probably Leek Wootton (q.v.). The Domesday Survey gives the tenants as 68 villeins and 4 bordars, but it is probable that the former term was used too loosely, as by the middle of the 12th century there were a number of sokemen, each holding a virgate of 30 acres, at the king's two manors of Stoneleigh and Cryfield.<sup>37</sup> During the reign of Stephen, but under the influence of the Empress Maud, a group of hermits established at Radmore in Cannock Chase (Staffs.) was converted into an abbey of the Cistercian Order. The monks, however, were so much interfered with by the foresters that immediately upon the accession of Henry II in 1154 they petitioned him to transfer them to his manor of Stoneleigh.<sup>38</sup> This he did, settling them first at Cryfield, where they found the proximity of the road from Coventry to Warwick too distracting; he accordingly gave them a new site, surrounded on two sides by the River Avon and on the north by the Echills Wood. Here, after making agreements with the Abbey of Combe, the nearest house of their Order, and the Priory of Kenilworth, who held the church of Stoneleigh, they built their abbey, receiving as endowment the manor of Stoneleigh, which had been paying £17 15s. yearly to the king.<sup>39</sup> Early in the reign of John the rights of the monks seem to have been challenged, and in 1204 the abbot gave the king 200 marks and 2 palfreys to have the whole manor, with its soke and rents and the coppice of Wedele (now Waverley) and the assarts of Hurst.<sup>40</sup> The men of the manor were therefore exempt from paying toll and other duties throughout England, and when the king tallaged his boroughs and villis of ancient demesne the abbot had the right to tallage Stoneleigh.<sup>41</sup> In 1279 the abbot was returned as lord of Stoneleigh<sup>42</sup> and its members and was said to have 5 carucates of arable in demesne, as well as 1,000 acres of woodland and waste in the woods of Dallies, Westwood, and Crackley; he had also the two rivers, Avon for a distance of 2 leagues and Sowle for 1 league, in which all freeholders had the right to catch fish for their own table but not for sale. In 1284 the monks were granted free warren in Stoneleigh, Echills, Home Grange, Starton, Waverley, Milburn, Cryfield, Bockendon, Horewell, Helenhull, Hurst, Finham, and Canley.<sup>43</sup> Next year the abbot proved his right to a long list of franchises,<sup>44</sup> and in 1291 the manor with its members and appurtenances

<sup>33</sup> The important collection of Stoneleigh documents deposited at Shakespeare's birthplace, Stratford-on-Avon, numbers more than 600 pieces, of which 50 date between 1373 and 1536. They include rentals, compotus rolls, accounts, and court rolls. The court rolls and books are continuous from 1538 to 1769. *Ex inf.* Mr. Levi Fox, F.S.A.

<sup>34</sup> *P.C.H. Warw.* i, 301.

<sup>35</sup> *Ibid.* 302.

<sup>36</sup> *Ibid.* 301; cf. 294-5.

<sup>37</sup> Dugd. 254.

<sup>38</sup> A lavish grant of estates which Henry had made in 1153, before his accession, to Ranulph, Earl of Chester, had included Stoneleigh with its soke (Cott. Chart. xvii, 2), but it did not take effect, as the earl died, probably by poison, in that year.

<sup>39</sup> *Red Bk. of Exch.* 671; *Pipe R.*

4 *Hen. II* (Rec. Com.), 184.

<sup>40</sup> *Pipe R. Nov.* nos. xviii, 220 (cf. 222); *Cal. Rot. Chart.* (Rec. Com.), 15; *Cal. Chart. R.* i, 13.

<sup>41</sup> Dugd. 257; *Cal. Pat.* 1330-4, p. 374; *Cal. Chart. R.* iv, 285.

<sup>42</sup> *Exch. K. R. Misc. Bks.* 15, fol. 13-17 v.

<sup>43</sup> *Cal. Chart. R.* ii, 273.

<sup>44</sup> *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 778.

was yielding about £45 yearly.<sup>45</sup> Numerous acquisitions of land in the parish were made from time to time,<sup>46</sup> and in 1325 the abbot took into his own hands the lands of no fewer than 26 tenants who had abandoned their holdings and left the manor.<sup>47</sup> By 1535 the yearly value of the abbey property within the parish was about £73.<sup>48</sup>

After the dissolution of the monastery, its site, with lands, mills, &c., was leased to Richard, Lord Grey, in February 1538 for 21 years, the reversion of the property after the expiry of the lease being granted in December of that year to Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk,<sup>49</sup> who is said to have sold it to William Cavendish.<sup>50</sup> From him it was bought in 1561 by Sir Thomas Leigh. He was son of Roger Leigh of Wellington (Shrops.) and had served as factor to Sir Rowland Hill, a wealthy London merchant, whose niece he married.<sup>51</sup> Sir Thomas obtained the lordship of the manor in 1562<sup>52</sup> and died in 1571, his widow living there until her death in January 1604.<sup>53</sup> Their second son Sir Thomas bought the manor from his nephew William son of Rowland Leigh in 1605;<sup>54</sup> he was created a baronet in 1611, and died in 1626 seised of the manor, which passed to his grandson Thomas,<sup>55</sup> who was created Baron Leigh of Stoneleigh in 1643 and died in 1672, aged 76.<sup>56</sup> His grandson Thomas had been married in 1669 to Elizabeth, the wealthy heiress of Richard Brown of Shingleton (Kent), when they were both under age. He took a violent dislike to her and tried to debar her of her dower by making a fraudulent conveyance of this and other manors.<sup>57</sup> After her death he married again and was succeeded in 1710 by his son Edward, whose grandson Edward (certified as a lunatic in 1774) died unmarried in 1786, the title becoming extinct.<sup>58</sup> Under his will, dated 1767, the estates passed to his sister Mary for life, with remainder to 'the first and nearest of my kindred being male and of my name and blood'. At her death in 1806, the Rev. Thomas Leigh, rector of Adlestrop (Glos.), a direct descendant in the male line from Rowland, eldest son of Sir Thomas Leigh, inherited the property, which passed at his death in 1813 to his nephew James Henry Leigh, whose son, Chandos Leigh, was created Baron Leigh of Stoneleigh in 1839, and died in 1850.<sup>59</sup> The manor is now owned by his great-grandson, the present Lord Leigh.



LEIGH. Gules a cross engrailed and in the first quarter a lion passant guardant argent.

Henry II at the beginning of his reign gave, or possibly confirmed, to Simon the Cook, or Hasteler (i.e. turnspit), land worth 20s. in *STARETON*.<sup>60</sup> Simon held this until his death in 1175, when the king granted it to his brother William the Cook,<sup>61</sup> who stated in 1198 that he held it by serjeanty of the kitchen.<sup>62</sup> The performance of culinary services seems to have been commuted for a rent of 20s., which was later changed to the yearly render of a sparrow-hawk.<sup>63</sup> William had been succeeded by his son Geoffrey de Staverton, or de Arderne, before 1224, when the Abbot of Stoneleigh claimed that, as King John had granted to his house the entire manor of Stoneleigh, Geoffrey should pay the hawk to him. He denied that he held anything of the abbot and said that he would continue to give the hawk to the king unless the king with his own mouth ordered him not to;<sup>64</sup> he was still holding the serjeanty and giving the hawk to the king in 1232,<sup>65</sup> and in 1235.<sup>66</sup> Geoffrey's son Rhys de Arderne gave Stareton, in exchange for land in Ireland, to Walter Marshal, Earl of Pembroke, who at once assigned it to Geoffrey de Langley and Maud his (second) wife and their heirs;<sup>67</sup> the grant being confirmed by the king in 1245.<sup>68</sup> Geoffrey held by render of a pair of gloves, or 1d., to the earl and his heirs, and of a hawk, on the earl's behalf, to the king.<sup>69</sup> Geoffrey had a grant of free warren in Stareton in 1246<sup>70</sup> and in 1247 conveyed his manor of Stareton to Stoneleigh Abbey, to be held by a rent of £20,<sup>71</sup> of which he later remitted half and his son Geoffrey the other half.<sup>72</sup> On the elder Geoffrey's death in 1274 the manor had passed to his son by Maud, Mr. Robert de Langley,<sup>73</sup> who presumably died soon afterwards and was succeeded by his brother the younger Geoffrey. In 1279 the Abbot of Stoneleigh was lord of the manor and had in demesne a mill and 2 carucates of land,<sup>74</sup> worth 20s. each in 1291, when the rents of the tenants were valued at £4.<sup>75</sup> By 1535 the manor was yielding £6 15s. 4d.<sup>76</sup> After the dissolution of the monastery the Duke of Suffolk, to whom its estates were granted, conveyed Stareton to Mathew Wrottesley,<sup>77</sup> who in 1549 made it over to Anthony Forster.<sup>78</sup> It was then acquired by Thomas Marrowe,<sup>79</sup> from whose grandson Samuel it was bought by Sir Thomas Leigh,<sup>80</sup> after which time it descended with the main manor.

Henry I gave to one Gerard, a hermit, a carucate of land in *FLETCHAMSTEAD*, where he built a dwelling and a chapel, which was dedicated by Bishop Walter Duredent (1149-61), subject to the payment of tithes to Kenilworth Priory as rectors of Stoneleigh. Here Gerard was buried, and King Henry II then pre-

<sup>45</sup> *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 255.  
<sup>46</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1281-92, p. 230; 1343-5, p. 10; 1345-8, p. 124; 1391-6, p. 64; 1446-52, p. 410; 1452-61, p. 151.  
<sup>47</sup> *Cal. Close*, 1323-7, p. 265.  
<sup>48</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 67.  
<sup>49</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xiii (2), 1182 (180).  
<sup>50</sup> *Dugd.* 258. Cavendish, however, was one of the eventual co-heirs of the duke, descended from his numerous aunts (Dugdale, *Baronage*, ii, 300); another was Sir Philip Sidney, who at his death at Arnhem in 1586 was seised of one-fifth of the site and demesnes of the monastery of Stoneleigh: *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cxxix, 53.  
<sup>51</sup> *Dugd.* 258.  
<sup>52</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1560-3, p. 321.  
<sup>53</sup> *Dugd.* 258.  
<sup>54</sup> *Feet of F. Warw. Mich.* 3 Jas. I.

<sup>55</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cccclxvi, 91.  
<sup>56</sup> *G. E. C. Complete Peerage* (2nd ed.), vii, 567. His house had been used by King Charles as headquarters for three days in August 1642; and, although he protested in 1646 that this was against his wish and that he had not himself taken up arms, he was heavily fined: *Cal. S. P. Dom.* 1645-7, p. 394.  
<sup>57</sup> *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* ix, 88-9.  
<sup>58</sup> *G. E. C. op. cit.* 569. An attempt was made in 1848 by a 'pretender' to seize the Abbey by force and obtain the estates by wild and scurrilous allegations: *ibid.*  
<sup>59</sup> *Ibid.* 570-1, and information from Mr. S. C. Kaines Smith.  
<sup>60</sup> *Red Bk. of Exch.* 671; *Leger Book*, fol. 5 v.  
<sup>61</sup> *Pipe R. Soc. Xxi*, 89; xxv, 179.  
<sup>62</sup> *Bk. of Feet*, 8.

<sup>63</sup> *Abbrev. Plac.* (Rec. Com.), 277.  
<sup>64</sup> *Rot. Litt. Claus.* (Rec. Com.), i, 608; *Bracton's Note Book*, 1063.  
<sup>65</sup> *Bk. of Feet*, 375, 1357.  
<sup>66</sup> *Cal. Close*, 1234-7, p. 137.  
<sup>67</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xi), 619.  
<sup>68</sup> *Cal. Chart. R.* i, 281.  
<sup>69</sup> *Ibid.* *Cal. Exc. e Rot. Fin.* ii, 337; *Cal. Close*, 1242-7, p. 530.  
<sup>70</sup> *Cal. Chart. R.* i, 291.  
<sup>71</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xi), 666.  
<sup>72</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1321-4, p. 359.  
<sup>73</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ii, 48.  
<sup>74</sup> *Exch. K. R. Misc. Bks.* 15, fol. 17 v.  
<sup>75</sup> *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 255.  
<sup>76</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 67.  
<sup>77</sup> *Dugd.* 262.  
<sup>78</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1548-9, p. 239.  
<sup>79</sup> *Ibid.* 1555-7, p. 541.  
<sup>80</sup> *Dugd.* 262.

sented Brian, a priest, to the hermitage. He was sent on business connected with the Templars to Ireland, where he died; during his absence his brother, Peter Lomsy, who was himself a Templar, officiated in the chapel. The Templars next persuaded Henry II to present Robert Pirou, with reversion after his death to the Order.<sup>81</sup> Accordingly, in 1185 the Templars were receiving 14s. rents from 12 tenants in Fletchamstead, as well as 3s. 'of the king's alms' from the mill there.<sup>82</sup> Richard I in 1189 confirmed to them the hermitage with its appurtenances,<sup>83</sup> as did King John in 1199,<sup>84</sup> but the Prior of Kenilworth disputed their right to it.<sup>85</sup> In 1297 the Master of the Temple held Fletchamstead as a hamlet of Stoneleigh, having there a mill and a carucate of land, which he held of the king by finding a chaplain to celebrate for the souls of the kings of England and of Gerard the hermit.<sup>86</sup> In 1293 an arrangement was made by which the Templars gave up their rights of pasturage or other easements in the manor of Stoneleigh in return for a grant by the monks of 200 acres of waste land in Westwood.<sup>87</sup> When the Order of the Temple was suppressed Robert de Hockle, Abbot of Stoneleigh, seized the chapel lands, but later, by the advice of his brother Thomas, made them over to the Knights Hospitallers.<sup>88</sup> The estate was then made a member of their Preceptory of Balsall,<sup>89</sup> and in 1338 was returned as including a messuage, 360 acres of land (worth £6), and pasture to the value of 50s.; the chaplain received a stipend of 5 marks and the bailiff 2 marks and a robe.<sup>90</sup> At the Dissolution the estates of Balsall were given to Queen Katherine (Parr), including the manor of Fletchamstead,<sup>91</sup> which, however, was granted in February 1545 to John Beaumont,<sup>92</sup> who at once assigned it to William Humberstone.<sup>93</sup> Four years later Humberstone made a settlement of the house, chapel, and lands (then in the tenure of Henry Porter) on himself and Dorothy Spryng, his intended wife.<sup>94</sup> They sold the manor and chapel in 1564 to Sir Thomas and Dame Alice Leigh,<sup>95</sup> whose son Sir Thomas built 'a fair house' there and made a park.<sup>96</sup> The property then descended with the main manor of Stoneleigh.

Sir John Catesby was seized of lands in Fletchamstead in 1487<sup>97</sup> and his son Humphrey is said to have sold them to John Smith, a wealthy lawyer of Coventry.<sup>98</sup> He died in 1501, holding of the abbot of Stoneleigh 2 messuages and certain lands here, in which he had enfeoffed his son Henry.<sup>99</sup> John had inclosed 100 acres of pasture to make a new park, which he had stocked with deer, and his son Henry enlarged the park by taking in more than 100 acres of arable, whereby 4 ploughs were rendered idle and 26 persons

homeless.<sup>1</sup> Henry died in 1513, seized of the manor,<sup>2</sup> usually distinguished as *NETHER FLETCHAMSTEAD*, which on the death of Henry's widow Joan Stafford in 1515 passed to their son Walter, then aged 14.<sup>3</sup> This Sir Walter was murdered in 1553, and his son Richard was said to have been tricked into making over his estates to the heirs of his intended son-in-law William Littleton.<sup>4</sup> The latter's elder brother Gilbert Littleton died seized of the manor in 1599.<sup>5</sup> His son John was attainted, but his forfeited estates were restored by James I to his widow Meriel,<sup>6</sup> to whom Gilbert's daughter Anne with her husband Sir Thomas Cornwall granted the manor in 1605.<sup>7</sup> Richard Smith's son by his second wife Dorothy, daughter of Richard Wallop, John Smith of Crabbet (Sussex), evidently recovered possession, as in 1613 he and his mother, then wife of Sir William Monson,<sup>8</sup> were dealing with the manor,<sup>9</sup> and he still held it in 1640,<sup>10</sup> but in 1699 his son John sold it to Lord Leigh.<sup>11</sup>



SMITH of Crabbet.  
Argent, crantly fitchy  
three running grey-  
hounds sable collared or.

Of the various hamlets and granges attached to Stoneleigh manor the *HOME GRANGE* was the most important in 1291, when it contained 5 carucates of arable, valued at 20s. each, a mill, and stock worth £2.<sup>12</sup> It was close to the abbey, but later the centre of the home farm seems to have been farther north, at the *STONELEIGH GRANGE*, granted in 1545 to John Hales of Coventry<sup>13</sup> and conveyed by him in 1554 to Ralph Underhill,<sup>14</sup> on whose death in 1556 it passed to his brother Edward,<sup>15</sup> who sold it in 1558 to Robert Carter.<sup>16</sup> *CRYFIELD* was said to have been the site of a royal residence called the Burystede, which was (presumably during the Anarchy) occupied by a foreign lord who was a highway robber.<sup>17</sup> Later it was, as already mentioned, the first site given for the new abbey; after the monks had abandoned it the whole vill was made responsible for finding a stone of wax yearly for the lights in the abbey church of St. Mary.<sup>18</sup> There were 4 carucates here in 1291, and a mill, and stock yielding £3.<sup>19</sup> After the dissolution of the abbey Cryfield Grange was granted in 1538 to Robert Bocher and Elizabeth his wife in tail male;<sup>20</sup> a subsequent grant to them in fee simple was made in 1545,<sup>21</sup> so that when Robert died in 1556 the reversion after the death of Elizabeth passed to his kinsman Robert Bocher, then aged 12.<sup>22</sup> The latter seems to have sold it to George Ognell.<sup>23</sup> By 1615 it was in the hands of

<sup>81</sup> Dugd. 263; Leger Book, fol. 127 v.-

130.

<sup>82</sup> B. Lees, *Templars in England*, 27,

33.

<sup>83</sup> Ibid. 141.

<sup>84</sup> *Cal. Rot. Chart.* (Rec. Com.), 3.

<sup>85</sup> *Rot. Cur. Reg.* ii, 228; *Curia Regii R.*

i, 405; *Pipe R. Soc. N.S.* i, 431 viii, 170.

<sup>86</sup> Exch. K. R. Misc. Bks. 15, fol. 18.

<sup>87</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1292-1301, p. 17.

<sup>88</sup> Dugd. 264.

<sup>89</sup> It was leased to John Beaufitz of

Balsall, who at his death in 1488 left the

lease to his wife Ellen, and 'to my lord of

Saint Jony's . . . my littell gilt cupp to

drinke sweete wine in'. P. C. C. 20 Miles.

<sup>90</sup> Larking, *Hospitalliers in England*

(Camd. Soc.), 179-81.

<sup>91</sup> L. and P. Hen. VIII, xix (1), p. 645.

<sup>92</sup> Ibid. xx (1), 282 (45).

<sup>93</sup> Ibid. 282 (52); Feet of F. Warw.

Hil. 2 Edw. VI.

<sup>94</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1548-9, p. 239.

<sup>95</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 6-7 Eliz.

<sup>96</sup> Dugd. 264.

<sup>97</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VIII*, i, 375.

<sup>98</sup> Dugd. 264.

<sup>99</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VIII*, ii, 520.

<sup>1</sup> Leadam, *Domesday of Inclusions*,

440-1.

<sup>2</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), xxviii, 139.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid. xxx, 123.

<sup>4</sup> See above, p. 58; Dugd. 56. Cf. Notes

of Finer Div. Cos. East. 6 Eliz.

<sup>5</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), clcvii, 71.

<sup>6</sup> Dugd. 56.

<sup>7</sup> Feet of F. Div. Cos. Trin. 3 Jas. I.

Cf. Chan. Proc. Ser. I, C. 20, no. 15.

<sup>8</sup> G. E. C. *Complete Peerage* (2nd ed.),

ix, 67.

<sup>9</sup> Feet of F. Div. Cos. East. 11 Jas. I.

<sup>10</sup> Dugd. 264.

<sup>11</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Hil. 10 Wm. III.

<sup>12</sup> *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 255.

<sup>13</sup> L. and P. Hen. VIII, xi (1), 1335

(39).

<sup>14</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1553-4, 309.

<sup>15</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cxiv, 69.

<sup>16</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1557-8, p. 442.

<sup>17</sup> Leger Book, fol. 156 v.

<sup>18</sup> Exch. K. R. Misc. Bks. 15, fol. 17 v.

<sup>19</sup> *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 255.

<sup>20</sup> L. and P. Hen. VIII, xiii (2), 734 (9).

<sup>21</sup> Ibid. xx (1), 520 (35).

<sup>22</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cx, 165.

<sup>23</sup> Pat. 20 Eliz. pt. 3; Anct. D. (P.R.O.),

A. 12903.

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

Sir James Altham, a baron of the Exchequer, who in December of that year settled it on himself and his wife Helen, with remainder to his son Sir James.<sup>24</sup> The latter married Elizabeth Sutton and died on 15 February 1622; his posthumous son and heir, Sutton Altham, was born on 27 August of that year<sup>25</sup> and died in 1630, when his two sisters, Elizabeth (aged 10) and Frances (aged 9) inherited the grange.<sup>26</sup> Elizabeth married the 1st Earl of Anglesey; Frances married Richard Vaughan, Earl of Carberry,<sup>27</sup> and they were dealing with a moiety of 'the manor' of Cryfield in 1638.<sup>28</sup>

In 1291 the abbey had 1 carucate, worth 10s., at MILLBURN,<sup>29</sup> and in 1364 Abbot Thomas was pardoned for having made a grant, for his own life, to certain persons of the so-called 'manor' of Millburn.<sup>30</sup> Elsewhere it is more correctly termed a grange, and as such it was leased for twenty-one years to Humphrey Reynolds in 1537.<sup>31</sup> In the following year the fee farm rent and the reversion of the estate were granted to James Cruse,<sup>32</sup> who died in 1547 leaving a son James,<sup>33</sup> who in 1556 sold the grange, with pasture for 360 sheep on 'le Heth' to Anthony Throckmorton, mercer of London,<sup>34</sup> from whom it was bought by Sir Thomas Leigh in 1565.<sup>35</sup>

Another grange was that of HELENHILL, later treated as identical with the hamlet of KINGSHILL in which it lay. Here, 'at Helum', the abbey had 1 carucate, worth 15s., in 1291<sup>36</sup> and land leased for 78s. in 1535.<sup>37</sup> The grange was one of many properties sold in June 1542 to Richard Andrewes and Leonard Chamberlayne of Woodstock,<sup>38</sup> who in July sold it to Thomas Gregory.<sup>39</sup> He died in 1574, seised of 'the manor or hamlet of Kingshill *alias* Helynhull', leaving a son Arthur.<sup>40</sup> In this family the manor descended with Stivichall (q.v.) into the 19th century.<sup>41</sup>

FINHAM was one of the divisions of Stoneleigh in which rights of free warren were granted to the monks in 1284,<sup>42</sup> and a messuage, 1 carucate of land, and 10s. rent here were improperly alienated by Abbot Thomas de Pipe to his concubine Isabel de Beneshale and their eldest son John, for which he had pardon in 1364.<sup>43</sup> The rents received by the monks from this hamlet in 1535 amounted to £6 11s. 8d.,<sup>44</sup> and by 1550 it was in the hands of Thomas Kevett,<sup>45</sup> whose son (Sir) George apparently conveyed it to Simon Chambers.<sup>46</sup> His daughter Elizabeth was dealing with the estate in 1631<sup>47</sup> and married Abraham Boun of Coventry, whose son John Boun of Finham had an only daughter Mary.<sup>48</sup> She married George Lucy of Charlecote, whose heirs sold the 'manor'<sup>49</sup> to William Bromley of Baginton,<sup>50</sup> with whose descendants it remained until at least the middle of the 19th century.<sup>51</sup>

At FINBURY Henry I is said to have given to

William his falconer a messuage and 2 virgates of land, to hold by service of keeping a falcon. One of William's descendants changed the land with a rent of 5s. to Kenilworth Priory.<sup>52</sup> The holding came to Alexander de Fynborgh, whose sister and heir Joan wife of Stephen Stretton gave it to William de Hulle, a priest, who conveyed it to John Bacon, by whom it was sold, in the time of Richard II, to Sir William Bagot of Baginton,<sup>53</sup> to which manor it remained attached.

The parish church of *ST. MARY'S CHURCH* situated on the west bank of the River Sowe at the southern end of the village, surrounded by an extensive churchyard. Built of red sandstone ashlar, it consists of chancel, north chapel, vestry, nave, south aisle, and west tower, and dates from the latter part of the 12th century, when it consisted of chancel, nave, and west tower. It was drastically rebuilt and the south aisle added about the middle of the 14th century.

The bases of the chancel walls for a height of some 10 ft. are of 12th-century date, with wide shallow buttresses or pilasters at the angles. Above, the wall was rebuilt in the 14th century, reduced in thickness by splayed offsets, and the shallow buttresses have been stepped over to meet the new wall-face. In the east gable wall is a window of three trefoil lights and tracery, with a pointed arch and label with human heads as stops. In the apex is a small blocked quatrefoil light enclosed in a circle. The gables have plain copings terminating in plain crosses on gabled trefoil bases. It has a tiled roof of rather steep pitch, corresponding to the lines of the earlier nave roof visible on the tower, and was probably retained by building a gable end over the chancel arch when the portion over the nave was demolished. In the south wall is a two-light window of two splayed orders with a flat head, all a restoration except the sill course. At the west end is a buttress partly overlapped by the east wall of the vestry.

The vestry was built in 1665 by Lord Leigh as a burial vault for his family and a vestry for the use of parishioners. It has a splayed plinth, moulded string-course, and a very high parapet wall with pinnacles at each angle and intermediately, giving the appearance of having an upper floor. In the east wall is a combined door and tracery window with a four-centred arch and hood-mould, probably a later insertion. On the south side is a traceried window of three trefoil lights with a pointed arch and hood-mould, and stops representing angels' heads.

The north chapel was built early in the 19th century as a mausoleum for the Leigh family, but is now in general use as a chapel. It harmonizes with the chancel, repeating the shallow buttresses and the plain parapet of the nave. It is lighted on the north by a

<sup>24</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccii, 134.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid. cccxix, 51.

<sup>27</sup> Burke, *Landed Gentry* (1906).

<sup>28</sup> Feet of F. Div. Cos. Trin. 14 Chas. I.

<sup>29</sup> Tax. Eccl. (Rec. Com.), 255.

<sup>30</sup> Cal. Pat. 1361-4, p. 460.

<sup>31</sup> L. and P. Hen. VIII, xiii (1), p. 581.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid. 887 (12).

<sup>33</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), lxxxv, 86.

<sup>34</sup> Cal. Pat. 1555-7, p. 63.

<sup>35</sup> Dugd. 266.

<sup>36</sup> Tax. Eccl. (Rec. Com.), 255.

<sup>37</sup> Valor Eccl. (Rec. Com.), iii, 67.

<sup>38</sup> L. and P. Hen. VIII, xvii, 443 (39).

<sup>39</sup> Ibid. 556 (12).

<sup>40</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), clxxv, 105.

<sup>41</sup> Chan. Proc. (Ser. 2), 225, no. 11;

Feet of F. Warw. Trin. 1654; East.

<sup>42</sup> Chas. II; Dugd. 265; Gamekeepers'

Deputations.

<sup>43</sup> Cal. Chart. R. ii, 273.

<sup>44</sup> Coram Rege R. 413, m. 14; Cal. Pat.

1361-4, p. 460. Pipe's Mill in Finham

may be connected with this transaction.

Although now mainly of 17th-century

construction, it contains features of

apparently medieval date: *ex inf.* the vicar

of Stoneleigh.

<sup>45</sup> Valor Eccl. (Rec. Com.), iii, 67.

<sup>46</sup> Dugd. 263; Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2),

clxxxiii, 92.

<sup>47</sup> Dugd. 263.

<sup>48</sup> Recov. R. Mich. 7 Chas. I, ro. 14.

<sup>49</sup> *Vitin. of Warw.* 1682 (Harl. Soc.),

41.

<sup>50</sup> It is first so called when Thomas and

Richard Kevett claimed it against John

Boun and others, 1668-75; Chan. Proc.

(Ser. 2), 510, nos. 38-40.

<sup>51</sup> Dugd. 263.

<sup>52</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations (1784-

1854).

<sup>53</sup> Dugd. 263; Leger Book, fol. 6.

<sup>54</sup> Ibid.

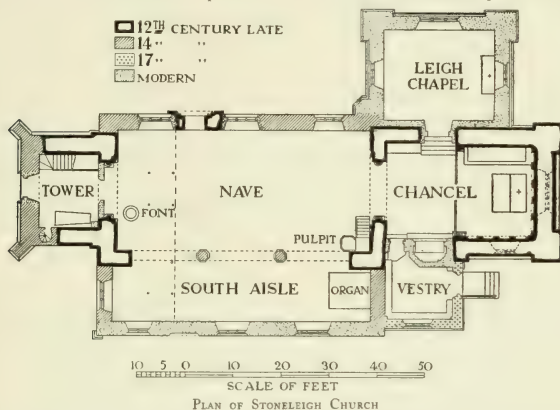


three-light tracery window, and on the east and west by a single tracery window of three ogee lights.

The north wall of the nave was almost entirely rebuilt in the 14th century. It has two clearstory windows, each of two trefoil lights with two splayed orders and square heads; a third has been blocked with masonry to accommodate the arch of a later window. Below are three tracery windows equally spaced, the one on the east is of original 14th-century work but the other two are rather poor late copies of it. They each have three trefoil lights with moulded jambs and mullions, pointed arches and hood-moulds with return ends. Between the two later windows is a blocked 12th-century doorway projecting 8 in. in front of the general wall-face. On the west side part of the

The aisle is lighted on the south by two three-light and one two-light plain tracery windows with trefoil lights of two splayed orders. A steep-pitched tiled roof, with dormer windows, was replaced when the south wall was rebuilt by one of low pitch covered with lead, blinded by a plain parapet. The west wall has an original 14th-century three-light trefoil window of two splayed orders.

The tower, which is not quite square, rises in four stages, the upper being added in the 14th century when the tower was partly rebuilt. Except for the west wall, which was entirely rebuilt, most of the two lower stages and part of the third belong to the 12th-century structure. The original tower was square but the west wall was set back some 3 ft. in the rebuilding.



projecting wall has been cut away and the impost moulding shortened for the insertion of the late window. It is of two orders supported on detached shafts with fluted capitals and moulded bases. The inner order is ornamented with double cones and the outer with double cones and pellets. The tympanum is crudely carved in low relief with two dragons intertwined below a coiled serpent. The impost moulding, decorated with a single zigzag, returns round the projection to the general wall-face.

The south aisle wall was entirely rebuilt early in the 19th century in a lighter coloured sandstone than the rest of the church; at the same time a south porch was destroyed and its position was perpetuated by a dummy doorway into which an inscribed tablet from the porch was built. This was a compromise with the parishioners who strongly objected to the removal of the porch. The inscription is to the memory of Humphrey How, porter to Lord Leigh, who died 6 February 1688-9, aged 63:

'Here Lyes A Faithful Friend unto the Poore  
Who dealt Large Almes out of his Lord's store  
Weep Not Poore People Tho' y<sup>e</sup> Servant's Dead  
The Lord him Self Will Give You Dayly Brede  
If Markets Rise Rail Not Against Their Rates  
The Price Is Stil the same at Stone Leigh Gates.'

In the south wall there are traces of a 12th-century window in the second stage, corresponding with the one on the north side. The first and second stages are marked by a narrow splayed string-course continued across the shallow flat 12th-century buttress, which extends to the third stage. There are two loop-lights to the circular tower staircase in the south-west angle. A forced door opening to the staircase has been blocked with masonry. The top stage, set back by a splayed offset, has in each face a two-light trefoil tracery window of two splayed orders with a four-centred arch, the lights being fitted with louvres. The tower is finished with a plain parapet on a splayed string-course, crocketed pinnacles at each angle, and a small pent roof covered with tiles. The west side is divided into three stages by an offset with a moulded weathering half-way up the second stage. Large angle buttresses are carried up in three weathered stages to the top of the third stage. A double-splayed plinth is taken round the buttresses, the lower splay meeting the single-splayed plinth on the north and south sides. On the south-west angle buttress there is a sundial painted on a stone slab; part of the buttress has been cut away to get the correct orientation for the slab. The west door is an early-19th-century insertion, probably in lieu of the south door which was abolished when the aisle

## A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

wall was rebuilt. It has a four-centred head with a deep hollow spay continued down the jambs. Above is a four-centred two-light trefoil tracery window of two played orders, the outer spay finishing on a played stop. On the north side in the second stage is a blocked round-headed 12th-century window. The 12th-century buttress has been weathered off at the string-course between the second and third stages and continued as a small angle buttress, part of the 14th-century rebuilding. In the third stage is a lozenge-shaped clock-face dated 1888, but the clock dates from about 1800.

The chancel (31 ft. by 20 ft.) has late-12th-century wall arcading on the east and south walls, five bays on the east and four on the south, consisting of pointed arches decorated with zigzag ornament, supported on twin attached shafts with fluted capitals and moulded bases, except at the angles, where there are single detached shafts. The wall-face above has been set back, leaving the arches projecting 3 in., which greatly mars their appearance. This arcading is almost entirely a restoration. The east wall above the arcade was rebuilt in the 14th century. In the centre of the north and south walls are semicircular responds with moulded bases and fluted capitals retaining the springers of an arch, all that remains of the 12th-century vault. In the south wall an elaborate recess in late-14th-century Gothic style was constructed in 1850 for an ornate alabaster table tomb to Chandos, Baron Leigh; and at the same time a new doorway was made into the vestry, with a pointed arch and zigzag ornament copied from the wall arcade. On the north side is a 19th-century round-headed doorway to the north chapel. The east window has plain spayed reveals with a pointed arch, the south window spayed reveals with a flat head. The ceiling is a segmental plaster vault, lined out with stone joists, concealing an open roof. The floor is paved with stone and there is no step between the chancel and the nave. The oak altar-table and rails are modern. In the north-west corner is a 14th-century effigy of an unknown priest in Eucharistic vestments, his hands joined in prayer. In the north-east corner is a very large and elaborate memorial in black and white marble to Alice, Duchess Dudley, and her daughter, erected in 1668. It has two recumbent female figures under a canopy supported on eight Ionic columns and on either side an angel with a trumpet holding back curtains.<sup>54</sup> There is also a mural tablet to Alice, Lady Leigh, who built and endowed ten almshouses in Stoneleigh; it was erected in her memory in 1670. There are 6 hatchments of the Leigh family, 3 on the west wall, 2 on the south, and 1 on the north.

The 19th-century north chapel (23 ft. by 19 ft.) has walls of ashlar and a floor paved with stone. It has a plaster vaulted ceiling with moulded ribs springing from moulded corbels in each angle and a central octagonal boss with a plain shield surrounded by cusps. There are a number of mural tablets to members of the Leigh family.

The vestry (14 ft. by 14 ft.) was built in 1665 in the Gothic style; the walls are plastered and lined out in imitation of ashlar, the floor stone-paved, and the ceiling a plaster vault with spayed ribs springing from attached angle shafts with moulded capitals and bases. On the south and west side there are stone benches. There is an enclosure on the north side for the 1850 tomb recess.

The nave (53 ft. 6 in. by 25 ft.) has a flat 17th-century roof of plain oak cambered beams supported on small curved brackets with wall-posts resting on stone corbels, and plastered between the beams. The arch to the chancel is of the late 12th century, semi-circular, of three orders, the inner a half-round roll, the intermediate decorated with zigzag, the outer with double cones and zigzag, and a hood-mould of alternate billets. The inner order is supported on half-round responds with fluted capitals, the zigzag ornament carried down to a moulded base decorated with trellis pattern. The outer order has attached shafts with fluted capitals and moulded bases, the shafts being connected to the wall-face by bands decorated with pellets. Carved on the north respond is a dove and on the opposite respond, a serpent. The tower arch is much obscured by an early-19th-century gallery, the arch being filled in, a door fitted, and the gallery carried across it. Partly hidden below the gallery on either side of the modern door are half-round responds and detached shafts with fluted capitals, contemporary with the arch to the chancel; above can be seen the top of a pointed arch of two played orders, probably part of the 14th-century rebuilding of the tower. The gallery, supported on iron columns, has an oak panelled front with a list of charities painted on each panel. In the centre is a carved royal coat of arms, the shield charged with Hanover. The south arcade has three bays with pointed arches of two played orders on octagonal pillars with moulded capitals and bases of the 14th century. There are no responds, the arches dying out into piers formed by retaining the ends of the 12th-century nave wall. All the windows have spayed reveals finished with a plaster bead, all the walls being plastered and lined out in imitation of ashlar. The oak panelled box-pews and pulpit are early-19th century. The font, placed on the south side of the door at the west end, is of the 12th century and is said to have been brought from Maxstoke Abbey. It is circular, with twelve arcaded niches containing figures of the Apostles, and stands on a modern circular base of two steps. It has a deep lead-lined basin. On the west wall above the gallery there are three hatchments of the Leigh family.

The south aisle has a low-pitched early-19th-century roof with beams and small wall-brackets on stone corbels, plastered between the beams. The gallery extends across the aisle. The windows have spayed reveals with plaster beads similar to those in the nave. The organ is placed at the east end.

The tower (15 ft. 2 in. by 12 ft. 1 in.) forms a west porch. In the south-west angle is a narrow ogee-headed doorway to the circular tower staircase, now disused, and a 19th-century doorway formed at gallery-floor level, reached by a wooden stair on the north side. On the south side is a very weather-worn recumbent effigy of a female, on a slightly tapered slab, probably 14th-century. Apart from the inserted floor forming a landing for the gallery, and another to house the clock, there are no other floors except to the belfry at the top, and above a small open pent-roof, probably of the 18th century.

Of the four bells, one of c. 1400 came from Wincombe Abbey, two are by Hugh Watts, 1632, one by T. Eayre, 1752, and the other recast by J. Briant in 1792.<sup>55</sup>

The plate consists of silver gilt chalice, paten, and

<sup>54</sup> Described and figured in *Birm. Arch. Soc. Trans.* lvii, 150-2.

<sup>55</sup> Tilley and Walters, *Church Bells of Warwick*, 223-4.



STONLEIGH CHURCH, c. 1820



STONLEIGH CHURCH: THE CHANCEL ARCH

*W. A. G. and J. N. L. 1820.*





flagon, the gift of parishioners, with hall-mark of 1719; also a 17th-century silver gilt chalice, chased with instruments of the Passion, given by Lord Leigh in 1949.

The registers commence 1633.

The Domesday Survey of 1086 *ADFOVSON* mentions two priests at Stoneleigh,<sup>56</sup> and when Kenilworth Priory was founded, in 1122, Henry I gave 'the church of Stoneleigh of my demesne with the lands, tithes, and churchscots (*cherchez*) and all things pertaining to it' to the priory, his gift being afterwards confirmed by Henry II.<sup>57</sup> The grant was made at the request of Thurstan, Archbishop of York, who then held the church and himself executed a charter giving it to the priory.<sup>58</sup> Attached to it was originally the chapel of Baginton, from which at the end of the 12th century a pension of 20s. was payable.<sup>59</sup> The church was appropriated to the priory by Bishop Geoffrey Muschamp (1198-1215), subject to the payment of a stipend of 5 marks to the vicar, and this was confirmed by Pope Gregory IX in 1228.<sup>60</sup> It was valued at £16 in 1291,<sup>61</sup> and in 1535 the rectory was farmed at £16 3s. 4d., in addition to which 30s. was received from the parish church and £5 3s. 8d. from the monks of Stoneleigh Abbey;<sup>62</sup> the vicarage was rated at £6 15s. 4d.<sup>63</sup> After the Dissolution the advowson was retained in the hands of the Crown until c. 1840, when it was acquired by Lord Leigh, with whose representatives it has remained.<sup>64</sup>

The history of the chapel of Fletchamstead has already been related. There was another hermitage chapel at Cloud, near the bridge of that name. William Hasteler, brother of Simon the Cook,<sup>65</sup> gave land to Edmund the hermit who served this chapel and was later buried in it. It was apparently left unserved and is said to have been burnt by thieves; whereupon the Prior of Kenilworth, as rector of the parish, entered upon the lands.<sup>66</sup>

George Garlick by will dated *CHARITIES* 17 February 1861 gave £20 to the churchwardens of Stoneleigh, the interest to be applied in keeping in repair the vault and tomb belonging to the testator's family in Stoneleigh churchyard and the residue in the purchase of bread to be distributed amongst the poor of the parish. By a codicil dated 6 November 1862 he gave £10 to the vicar and churchwardens, the interest to be given to poor widows on Christmas Day. The annual income of the charities amounted to 14s. 8d.

Weston's Charity. By a Declaration of Trust dated 5 January 1892 a sum of £97 13s. 5d. 2½ per cent. Consolidated Stock was settled upon trust, the income, £2 8s. 8d., to be paid to the vicar and churchwardens for the benefit of the deserving poor of the parish.

Miss Emma Weston's Charity. By a Declaration of Trust dated 2 February 1901 a sum of £100 was settled upon trust, the income, £2 10s., to be paid to the vicar and churchwardens for the benefit of the deserving poor of the parish.

Mary Turner's Charity. 6s. 8d. is received each year for the benefit of the poor of this parish. For particulars of the charity see parish of Baginton.

Alice, Duchess Dudley. For particulars of this charity see parish of Ashwell. The share of the charity

applicable for this parish consists of four-seventeenth parts of the income of the charity. Under the provisions of the Commissioners' scheme dated 6 January 1885 such share shall be applied in augmentation of the stipends or otherwise for the benefit of the almspeople inhabiting the Almshouses of Sir Thomas and Lady Alice Leigh and for the benefit of the poor of this parish, but so that the portion for the benefit of the almspeople shall not be less than £92 per annum. The share of the annual income applicable for the parish amounts to £99 6s. 8d.

Thomas Southerne. For particulars of this charity see under Cubbington. The share of the income of the charity applicable for the parish of Stoneleigh amounts to £26 8s. The share applicable for Starton amounts to £17 12s.

The Almshouse of Thomas Leigh, knight, and of Alice his wife, in Stoneleigh. By Deed Poll dated 1 March 21 Elizabeth under the hand and seal of Dame Alice Leigh, after reciting that she, according to the interest and will of Sir Thomas and of her the said Dame Alice, had built an almshouse in Stoneleigh for the dwelling of five poor men and five poor women, and further reciting that the queen by letters patent dated 28 June, in the nineteenth year of her reign, had granted that the house so built should for ever remain an Almshouse, and that there should be two wardens and five poor men and five poor women of the same, for ever, who should be named and placed therein in manner as in the letters patent mentioned, and that Her Majesty further granted that the said wardens, poor men and poor women and their successors should be a body corporate and politic, by the name of the Wardens and Poor of the Almshouse of Thomas Leigh, knight, and Alice, his wife, in Stoneleigh. The almspeople, consisting of five poor men and five poor women, are appointed from among the oldest and infirm of this parish.

Charity of Thomas, Lord Leigh. By an indenture dated 17 January 1681 certain property at Cubbington was charged with the annual payment of £6 13s. 4d. for providing ten gowns to be delivered to the churchwardens at the feast day of St. Thomas the Apostle for the almsmen and almswomen in the Almshouse of Stoneleigh.

Joseph Symcox. By an indenture dated 2 June 1705, certain property in Coventry was charged with the annual payment of the sum of 40s. for the benefit of the poor of Stoneleigh, having special regard to the poor of Canley and Fletcham. The rent-charge was redeemed in 1925 in consideration of the sum of £80 2½ per cent. Consols.

Ryton, Griffin, and Lord Leigh's Charity. It is recorded upon a benefaction table in the church that Mr. Ryton and Mr. Griffin gave certain sums of money to the poor of this parish, with which, and a large addition made by the Right Hon. Thomas, the first Lord Leigh, Baron of Stoneleigh, was purchased a piece of ground called Quarry Close, Coventry, for the use of the poor. The income of the charity is applied by the churchwardens for the purposes mentioned.

Augusta Sophia Jones by will dated 24 November 1891 bequeathed £100 to the vicar and churchwardens of Stoneleigh, the interest, amounting to £2 4s., to be

<sup>56</sup> *V.C.H. Warwick*, i, 301.

<sup>57</sup> *Cal. Chart.* R. iii, 275, 277; Harl.

MS. 3650, fol. 72 v.

<sup>58</sup> *Ibid.* fol. 52 v.

<sup>59</sup> *Ibid.* fol. 34, 38.

<sup>60</sup> *Ibid.* fol. 34; Dugd. 259.

<sup>61</sup> *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 241.

<sup>62</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 64.

<sup>63</sup> *Ibid.* 69.

<sup>64</sup> *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.); *Clergy List*.

<sup>65</sup> See above, p. 234.

<sup>66</sup> Dugd. 262; Leger Book, fol. 172.

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

expended for the repair of the grave and monument to her father in the graveyard and church of Stoneleigh and any sum not so required to be expended in such manner as the vicar shall determine.

According to a table in the Church:

Thomas Dunton gave £4, the interest to be laid out in bread to be distributed to the poor of this parish yearly on Good Friday.

Francis Cashmore gave £10, the interest to be distributed in bread to the poor of this parish, the first Sunday after Epiphany.

## STRETTON BASKERVILLE

Acreage: 1,038.

Population: 1911, 50; 1921, 55; 1931, 28.

This parish, the most northerly in Knightlow Hundred, is a small, fairly level, and open tract across which the Harrow Brook, Sketchley Brook, and other small streams wind their way to the River Anker, which forms its south-west boundary. On the north-east it is divided from Hinckley in Leicestershire by the Watling Street, but there are no other metalled roads. Small readjustments of boundary were made with Hinckley and Burbage in 1934.<sup>1</sup> The parish now contains only a few scattered farms and cottages, the village having been extinguished in the inclosures of the late 15th and early 16th century, and the population has shown a more or less steady decline ever since 1801, when eighty-one persons were enumerated. Stretton lies just too far outside the orbit of both Hinckley and Nuneaton to develop as a residential suburb of either place. By 1636 Stretton Baskerville was considered to be a part of Burton Hastings,<sup>2</sup> and Dugdale, writing about the same time, states that there is 'not now any part of the Church standing'.<sup>3</sup>

The mediæval township constituted a group of a dozen or so houses on a ridge which runs parallel with the stream near the south-east corner of the parish. The site is approached from the Watling Street by a drive which skirts the stables of Stretton House and then turns west along a farm track. This track, which formed the village street, was apparently cobbled and led to a small plateau on the west which was the site of the church. Recent trial excavations on this site have yielded roofing slates, plain red paving tiles, small pieces of glazing leadwork, and fragments of building stone, including a large semicircular block, possibly parts of an internal arcade.<sup>4</sup> A belt of elms divides this western part, known as 'the Little Township', from the field to the east called 'the Township', where a series of depressions, yielding fragments of pottery, marks the sites of insubstantial cottages of timber or clay. A long field slopes down to former fish-ponds, of which the central borders the stream for about 105 yds., is between 25 and 30 yds. wide, and has two small ponds at each end. The banks vary in height from 5 ft. to 10 ft. and along the north bank are pieces of worked and unworked stone,<sup>5</sup> from the foundations of the church, and bricks of 15th-century type.

Fletcher Bates gave £80, the interest to be given to the poor.

Mrs. Davis by will (date unknown) gave to the minister and churchwardens of Stoneleigh £20, the interest to be expended in keeping in repair the tombstones over the graves of her husband and son-in-law in the churchyard of Stoneleigh and the surplus amongst the most necessitous and deserving poor of the hamlet of Stareton. The annual income of these four charities amounting to £5 11s. is applied by the churchwardens.

STRETTON BASKERVILLE was MANOR rated at 3 hides in 1086, and was held by

Roger of Ralph de Mortemer, being the latter's only vill in Warwickshire. Edric had held it freely before the Conquest.<sup>6</sup> The connexion of the village with the family giving its distinguishing name dates back to the reign of Henry I, during which William de Baskerville held three fees of Robert, Earl Ferrers, of which one was in 1166 in the hands of William's son Ralph.<sup>7</sup> The manor was stated to be held as a member of the Ferrers Honor of Tutbury as late as the 17th century.<sup>8</sup>

The last of the Baskervilles to hold Stretton was Walter, William's grandson, who in 1208 gave 3 palfreys for having respite of a fine of £10 owed to the king and £25 owed to the Jews,<sup>9</sup> and whose widow Isolda six years later paid 100 marks and 1 palfreys to have possession of her inheritance.<sup>10</sup> The manor in 1219-20 is found in possession of Ralph son of Nicholas, steward of William, Earl Ferrers.<sup>11</sup> In 1229 and 1231 the constable of Kenilworth was ordered to grant him 200 bream for his fish-pond at Stretton,<sup>12</sup> and in 1230 his lands here and elsewhere were exempted from suits of shires and hundreds and from sheriff's aid.<sup>13</sup> During the latter part of his life he was the king's steward, dying in 1257.<sup>14</sup> Robert his son and heir did homage for his lands the following year<sup>15</sup> and was a partisan of Simon de Montfort, but was restored to favour under the terms of the award of Kenilworth,<sup>16</sup> one of his sureties being Ralph Pipard, his nephew and successor, who was returned as lord of the manor in 1275-6.<sup>17</sup> Pipard in 1284-5 claimed view of frankpledge, assize of bread and ale, and waif, in his manor of Stretton, the former two privileges being allowed, having been exercised from time immemorial.<sup>18</sup> In 1301 he granted the manor to John de Twyford, reserving a life tenure for himself at a rose rent.<sup>19</sup> John de Twyford was returned as lord of Stretton Baskerville *cum membris* in 1316.<sup>20</sup> In 1381 Sir Robert de Twyford entailed the manor on his son Robert, with contingent remainder to



TWYFORD. *Argent two bars sable and a quarter sable with a cinquefoil or thereon.*

<sup>1</sup> Leicester and Warwick Order, 1934.

<sup>2</sup> *Warw. Co. Records*, i, 242.

<sup>3</sup> Dugd. c. i.

<sup>4</sup> *Ex inf.* M. W. Beresford.

<sup>5</sup> *Ex inf.* Col. Atkins, of Stretton House.

<sup>6</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.*, i, 280, 332.

<sup>7</sup> *Red Book of Exch.* (Rolls Ser.), 337.

<sup>8</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), xxviii, 139; xxx, 123; cccxi, 117.

<sup>9</sup> *Pipe R.* 10 *John* (Pipe R. Soc.), 163.

<sup>10</sup> Dugd. 50; *Pipe R.* 16 *John*.

<sup>11</sup> *Rot. Litt. Claus.* (Rec. Com.), i, 406.

Ralph's antecedents are obscure; Dugdale (p. 50) states that he was a grandson of Alice, wife of William de Baskerville.

<sup>12</sup> *Cal. Close*, 1227-31, pp. 142, 470.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.* p. 338; *Cal. Chart. R.* i, 122.

<sup>14</sup> Matth. Paris, *Chron. Majora* (Rolls

Ser.), v, 616.

<sup>15</sup> *Exc. & Rot. Fin.* (Rec. Com.), 269.

<sup>16</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1266-72, p. 286.

<sup>17</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ii, 20; *Rot. Hund.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 225.

<sup>18</sup> *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 784-5.

<sup>19</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc.), no. 1165.

<sup>20</sup> *Feud. Aids*, v, 176.

his other son Ralph.<sup>21</sup> The Twyford family continued to hold the manor till 1488, in which year Thomas Twyford evicted the tenants of 4 messuages and 3 cottages so as to inclose the 160 acres thereto belonging. Soon afterwards he sold the manor to Henry Smyth, who in 1493 completed the inclosure, evicting 80 persons from 12 messuages and 4 cottages on 640 acres, the value of which, as arable land, had been £55.<sup>22</sup> Henry Smyth left a widow Joan (Stafford) on whom he settled the manor, with remainder if he died without issue to his sister Elizabeth Porter, but his successor was his son Walter, aged 11 at his father's death in 1514.<sup>23</sup> The transfer of the manor from the Twyford to the Smyths was confirmed by Robert Twyford of Brooksby (Leics.) to Walter Smyth in 1525.<sup>24</sup> Walter Smyth apparently leased the demesnes to William Astill before 1522, when the latter made a settlement of 'the manor' (held of Walter Smyth) on his marriage to Elizabeth Poley;<sup>25</sup> Astill's son and heir Richard was aged 5 at his father's death in 1529, and was apparently dead by 1553, when Walter Smyth leased the manor for £50 annually to Thomas and John Chetwynd.<sup>26</sup> William Astill, probably Richard's son, died in 1577, seised of the reversion of 'tenements' in Stretton after the death of Elizabeth widow of Robert Sacheverel,<sup>27</sup> probably the Elizabeth Poley mentioned above.

The Smyths, a Coventry family by origin, also held the neighbouring manor of Shelford or Sherford in Burton Hastings (q.v.), and Stretton Baskerville descended with this till the late 18th century. By 1788 it had passed to William Brown of Hinckley (Leics.).<sup>28</sup> Thomas Brown was a principal landowner in 1850.<sup>29</sup>

In 1221 Ralph son of Nicholas granted to Nuneaton Priory the virgate held by William son of Ranulf and the half-virgate held by Henry de Cleiwey.<sup>30</sup> This became part of the priory demesnes, and was in 1535 worth 8s.<sup>31</sup> In 1540 it was granted along with other Nuneaton estates in tail male to Sir Marmaduke Constable,<sup>32</sup> and confirmed to Robert Constable and his heirs in 1560-1.<sup>33</sup>

Between 1210 and 1214 there was *ADFOVSON* a lawsuit between Walter de Baskerville and the prioress of Nuneaton about the presentation to this church; the latter claimed it as a chapel of her church of Burton Hastings, producing Bishop Nonant's confirmation of the original grant by Ralph de Turville and also a document (*cartam*) from Alice de Baskerville, Walter's grandmother, to the bishop waiving her rights. Walter discounted this because Alice had had no interests in Stretton except in dower, and stated that none of his ancestors had made any direct grant of the advowson to the priory.<sup>34</sup> The suit was apparently compromised, for in 1221 the prioress quitclaimed the advowson to Ralph son of Nicholas, Walter's successor, saving the ancient portion due from the church to her own church of Burton Hastings, in return for certain lands and 15 marks silver.<sup>35</sup>

The advowson descended with the manor until the end of the 17th century. After the extinction of the village by the inclosures of 1488 and 1493 the church fell into ruins. In 1633 Bishop Wright of Lichfield wrote to Laud asking whether Stretton, in common with the churches of other decayed villages in his diocese, should be rebuilt or the parishes united with neighbouring ones.<sup>36</sup> The church was not rebuilt, and the parish was served by the clergy of Burton Hastings (since 1927 united with Wolvey).

The advowson of the sinecure rectory was acquired, with that of Wolston (q.v.), by Charles Pinchin, who presented to it in 1719,<sup>37</sup> as did his daughters Hannah Pinchin and Letitia Wilcox, widow, jointly, in 1737.<sup>38</sup> These ladies were still named as patrons in 1859,<sup>39</sup> but about 1900 the Crown was said to hold the patronage.<sup>40</sup> In 1926, when the benefice was worth £63 net and was held with Burton Hastings, the patron was 'uncertain'.<sup>41</sup>

The value of the church was in 1291 £5 6s. 8d.,<sup>42</sup> and of the rectory in 1535 £6 in addition to 9s. 6d. for procurations and synodals and 10s. pension to Nuneaton Priory.<sup>43</sup>

## STRETTON-UPON-DUNSMORE AND PRINCETHORPE

### *Stretton-upon-Dunsmore*

Acreage: 1,919.

Population: 1911, 587; 1921, 612; 1931, 648.

### *Princethorpe*

Acreage: 1,070.

Population: 1911, 357; 1921, 324; 1931, 298.

These two parishes, which are united for ecclesiastical purposes and were formerly both hamlets of Wolston, lie in the centre of the county about equidistant (some 8 miles) from Rugby, Leamington, Kenilworth, and Coventry. The villages, which are about a mile apart, are on opposite sides of the valley of a small stream rising on Dunsmore Heath and flowing west and then south (Stretton village being near the change of course) to the river Leam, which forms the southern boundary of Princethorpe. The ground is undulating, the highest

point, rather over 350 ft., being found on the heath north-east of Stretton, and falling to just under 200 ft. where the stream joins the Leam at the south-west corner of Princethorpe. There is a fair amount of woodland in the western part of both parishes. Stretton is of a somewhat elongated shape, measuring about 4 miles from east to west by only about one mile north to south, and merits its distinguishing name more than most of the villages 'on Dunsmore', the greater part of the heath being in the long eastward extension of the parish. The parishes are well served by roads, being crossed not only by the Fosse Way, from which Stretton derives its name, but also by the main roads from Coventry to London and to Oxford, and the direct road from Rugby to Warwick. Princethorpe village is situated where this last road, that from

<sup>21</sup> Harl. Chart. 112 E. 21.

<sup>22</sup> Leadam, *Domesday of Incl.* 431, 649, 662.

<sup>23</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), xxviii, 139; xxx, 123.

<sup>24</sup> Close R. 16 Hen. VIII, pt. 2, m. 6.

<sup>25</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), xlix, 7.

<sup>26</sup> Feet of F. Warw. East, 7 Edw. VI.

<sup>27</sup> Thomas Chetwynd was father of Dorothy, wife (and murderess) of Walter Smyth:

Dugd. 55.

<sup>28</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), clxxxiii, 83.

<sup>29</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations, Shire

Hall, Warwick.

<sup>30</sup> White, *Directory Warw.* 595.

<sup>31</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xi), 225.

<sup>32</sup> Valor Eccl. (Rec. Com.), iii, 76.

<sup>33</sup> L. and P. Hen. VIII, xv, 733 (67).

<sup>34</sup> Pat. 3 Eliz. pt. 6.

<sup>35</sup> Curia Regis R. vi, 71; vii, 260.

<sup>36</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xi), 225.

<sup>37</sup> Cal. S.P. Dom. 1633-4, p. 290.

<sup>38</sup> Eton, *Theatrum* (1763), 93.

<sup>39</sup> Institution Bks. (P.R.O.).

<sup>40</sup> Clergy List.

<sup>41</sup> Ibid.; Kelly, *Directory* (1900).

<sup>42</sup> Crookford (1926).

<sup>43</sup> Tax. Eccl. (Rec. Com.), 241.

<sup>44</sup> Valor Eccl. (Rec. Com.), iii, 58, 76.

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

Coventry to Oxford, and the Fosse Way intersect; Stretton is just west of the Fosse Way, and linked up with the main roads by a number of lanes. There are no railways through either of the parishes; the nearest stations are Brandon and Wolston on the Birmingham main line (2½ miles north of Stretton) and Marton on the Leamington branch (2½ miles south of Princethorpe).

In 1704 an inclosure of 1,700 acres of common fields in this parish was carried out,<sup>1</sup> presumably by agreement, as no Act can be traced. A further 14½ yardlands, or 1,000 acres, of common field in Princethorpe were inclosed by Act of Parliament in 1762.<sup>2</sup>

Both parishes have contained institutions of more than average interest. In Stretton, the Warwick County Asylum for Juvenile Delinquents was established in 1818. It was a private venture, taking charge of convicted boys of 14 to 16 years of age, who were kept for two years and taught shoemaking and tailoring. This reformatory was closed before 1900,<sup>3</sup> and is now commemorated only by Asylum Farm, ½ mile south-east of the village. A Gardeners' Allotment Association, providing plots of about 20 perches each, was established in Stretton in 1825.<sup>4</sup>

Princethorpe contains St. Mary's Priory, founded in 1833 for nuns of the Order of St. Benedict, with a girls' school attached. The buildings, which include a church with a bell-tower, are a prominent feature in the landscape.

It seems probable that the name of Stretton was in early times applied to a much larger piece of Wolston, or possibly used as an alternative for that name, as 'the mill of Stretton called Purimulne' in 1226<sup>5</sup> appears to be the same as 'the mill of Stretton on the Avon' (which river does not touch the present Stretton), and to be on the site of the existing Wolston Mill.

The 5-hide vill of **STRETTON MANORS [UPON DUNSMORE]**, held in the reign of Edward the Confessor by Ailmund, was in 1086 the property of Roger de Montgomery, Earl of Shrewsbury, whose tenant was Rainald de Bailleul. Its value had increased from £3 to £5 and in 1086 to £6.<sup>6</sup> Earl Roger, amongst his other estates and dignities, held the castle and earldom of Arundel,<sup>7</sup> and Stretton appears to have been regarded as an appendage of this earldom in its various creations. In 1235 it was reckoned with Wolston and Church Lawford at 2½ knight's fees held of John Fitzalan,<sup>8</sup> Stretton by itself being a half-fee held of the same overlord by the heir of Ralph Strange (*Extranei*) in 1242.<sup>9</sup> A quarter of a fee in Stretton and Princethorpe was in 1428 stated to have been formerly held of the Earls of Arundel.<sup>10</sup>

The next recorded tenant of the manor after Ralph Strange was Thomas de Garshale, who with his wife Maud in 1262, for a consideration of 20 marks silver and an annual rent of 1d. or a pair of white gloves, passed property in Stretton and Princethorpe consisting of 2 messuages, 2½ virgates of land, and 10 acres of wood to Robert Heriz of Stretton. Though not specifically described as a manor it included mesne, homages, rents of freemen, wards, reliefs, escheats, and other manorial appurtenances and represented the whole of the Garshales property in the two villis.<sup>11</sup> Robert Heriz soon regranted the estate, at the same rent but for a consideration of 30 marks, to Henry de Hastings, son and heir of Sir Henry de Hastings.<sup>12</sup> He or his son Sir John subinfeudated Thomas de Bray, who held a fifth of a knight's fee in Stretton of the latter in 1313,<sup>13</sup> and in 1282 had made a settlement of his estates in Warwickshire and Bedfordshire on himself and his wife Alice, with remainder to his son Thomas and his heirs, his sons Henry, Roger, and Richard, and their heirs successively.<sup>14</sup> The Bray family continued to be tenants of the Hastings (later Earls of Pembroke).<sup>15</sup> This fifth of a fee in Stretton was identified in the inquisitions on Joan widow of Sir William Beauchamp (1435), who inherited through the entail made by the second Hastings, Earl of Pembroke, on his cousin William de Beauchamp,<sup>16</sup> and on Sir Edward Neville (1476), her grandson.<sup>17</sup> The last of the Brays in the male line was Richard (*temp.* Henry VI), one of whose daughters and coheirs, Helen, married Edmund Starkey.<sup>18</sup> His descendant, William Starkey (died 1555), left two sons, Thomas, who died in 1557, and William, aged 18 at that time;<sup>19</sup> the latter was dealing with his share in 1560,<sup>20</sup> perhaps as a settlement on his coming of age, and sold it two years later to Anne, widow of Sir Thomas Longueville,<sup>21</sup> on whose death in 1564 it came to her son by a former marriage, Bartholomew Tate of Delapré (Northants.).<sup>22</sup> The latter conveyed it in 1581 to his younger brother Anthony, of Sutton Bonington (Notts.) and it was sold by Anthony's son George to Richard Taylor of Binley in 1620.<sup>23</sup> This manor remained in the Taylor family for over a century.<sup>24</sup> Samuel Taylor being returned as lord between 1715 and 1742.<sup>25</sup> A Samuel Taylor was dealing with it in association with William Butler and his wife, probably his brother-in-law and sister, in 1750,<sup>26</sup> and William Butler was lord up to at least 1759, when with his wife Mary, son William, and several other members of the family he sold it to George, Earl of Halifax.<sup>27</sup> The latter died without surviving male issue in 1771,<sup>28</sup> when this half of the manor disappeared as a separate entity, becoming merged with the half already held

<sup>1</sup> White, *Directory Warwick*, (1850), 678.

<sup>2</sup> Slater, *Engl. Peasantry and Encl.* 302.

<sup>3</sup> Probably between 1861 and 1871; the population of the parish declined by 58 (about 8 per cent.) in this decade, as opposed to decreases of 29 and 19 respectively in the ones preceding and following.

<sup>4</sup> White, *op. cit.* 677.

<sup>5</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xi), 374. Pirrey Mill still existed in the 17th century (Dugd. 40), and in the *Place-Names of Warwick*, p. 142 it is alleged to be in Princethorpe and marked on the 6-in. O.S. map, which does not seem to be correct. See below, under Wolston, p. 274.

<sup>6</sup> *V.C.H. Warwick*, i, 307.

<sup>7</sup> See G. E. C. *Compl. Peerage*, 2nd ed.

i, 231-2.

<sup>8</sup> *Book of Fees*, 508.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.* 950.

<sup>10</sup> *Feudal Aids*, v, 193.

<sup>11</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xi), 846.

<sup>12</sup> Dugd. 41, quoting MSS. *penes* Edw. Taylor of Binley. The date must be before 1269 (*Cal. Inq. p.m.* i, 719), though Stretton is not mentioned amongst the lands granted to Henry's wife Joan for her maintenance (*Cal. Pat.* 1258-66, pp. 540, 557).

<sup>13</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, 412 (p. 234).

<sup>14</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xi), 964.

<sup>15</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 49 Edw. III, pt. 1, 70.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.* 14 Hen. VI, 35; G. E. C. *Compl. Peerage*, 2nd ed. i, 24; *Cal. Close*,

1374-7, p. 286.

<sup>17</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 16 Edw. IV, 66.

<sup>18</sup> Dugd. 41 (Taylor MSS.).

<sup>19</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cvi, 89; *civ.* 77.

<sup>20</sup> *Feet of F. Warw. East.* 2 Eliz. Dugd. 41.

<sup>21</sup> Baker, *Northants.* i, 27.

<sup>22</sup> Dugd. 41.

<sup>23</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), dclxxiii, 43; *Feet of F. Warw. East.* 4 Jas. II.

<sup>24</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations, Shire Hall, Warwick.

<sup>25</sup> *Feet of F. Warw. Trin.* 24 Geo. II.

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.* 181. 32 Geo. II; Gamekeepers' Deputations.

<sup>27</sup> G. E. C. *Compl. Peerage*, 2nd ed. vi,

248.



by the 3rd Duke of Buccleuch, who was distantly related to the Earl of Halifax and in the previous year had acquired manorial interests in Stretton through his marriage with the heiress of the Montagus (see below). The Dukes of Buccleuch remained lords of the manor, but the manorial rights seem to have lapsed.

The descent of the other half of the manor, which is not noticed by Dugdale, is very obscure. A fine was levied on a half-manor between Clement Cave, third son of Richard Cave of Stanford (Leics.)<sup>29</sup> and Margery his wife and Edward Mountague and John Croke in 1527,<sup>30</sup> and between Nicholas Charnell and Gabriel Chambers in 1571.<sup>31</sup> Thomas Wriothesley, Earl of Southampton, was lord of Stretton in 1656<sup>32</sup> and his daughter and coheir Elizabeth with her husband Jocelyn, Lord Percy (later Earl of Northumberland), were dealing with the manor in 1668<sup>33</sup> and she with her second husband Ralph, Baron Montagu of Boughton in 1673.<sup>34</sup> John, Duke of Montagu, and Mary his wife were dealing with the manor in 1711;<sup>35</sup> no members of this family are mentioned as lords of the manor in the Gamekeepers' Deputations, but there is little doubt that the two halves of the manor became merged after 1771 (see above).

In 1330 Richard le Fevre was licensed to alienate property in Stretton, Princethorpe, and other places to the prioress and nuns of 'Kynewood'.<sup>36</sup> The nunnery of Henwood had property worth £1 or. 5d. net in 1535.<sup>37</sup>

The hamlet of *PRINCETHORPE* is first mentioned in 1275-6, when William de Holeweye and Henry Coc' held 1 virgate there.<sup>38</sup> In 1357 it was described as a manor, when it was settled on William de Peeke, for life with contingent remainders to Sir Richard Treweloue in tail, John de Hockeleye and Cecily his wife in tail, or Nicholas le Eyr and his heirs.<sup>39</sup> From about this date till the middle of the 15th century Princethorpe figures with Wappenbury and Eathorpe as 4 knights' fees held of the Mowbrays and the Earls of Norfolk.<sup>40</sup> In the 15th century the immediate lords of the manor were the Hugford family,<sup>41</sup> and in 1517 John Hugford was reported to have inclosed the sites of 2 messuages and 50 acres of land in Princethorpe.<sup>42</sup> In the same year he sold the manor to Sir William Compton,<sup>43</sup> who died in possession in 1528.<sup>44</sup> Henry, 1st Lord Compton, Sir William's grandson, was dealing with his manor of Princethorpe in 1583,<sup>45</sup> and William, 2nd Lord Compton, made a settlement of it in 1629<sup>46</sup> shortly before his death, when his younger brother Sir Henry succeeded him.<sup>47</sup> It was finally conveyed by Richard Compton and others to Richard Jennens in 1665.<sup>48</sup> Another Richard Jennens appears as vouchee in recoveries in 1708 and 1739.<sup>49</sup> His youngest daughter and coheir Anne married

William Peareth, of Usworth (Durham), in whose family the manorial rights remained as late as 1906.<sup>50</sup>



COMPTON. *Sable a leopard or between three helmets argent.*



PEARETH. *Gules a chevron argent between three pears or.*

Another manor appears in the middle of the 16th century; in 1560 Matthew Knyveton settled the manor of Princethorpe on his wife Elizabeth and at the same time made a lease thereof for 40 years to William Fletewood of the Middle Temple. Knyveton died in 1562 when his son William was 10, the wardship of his lands being granted to Sir William Cordell and Richard Alington.<sup>51</sup> William Knyveton was dealing with this manor in 1576<sup>52</sup> and passed it in 1580 to Martin Chamberlyn, when the appurtenances included two mills and fishery in the Leam.<sup>53</sup> This manor remained with the Chamberlayne family till the end of the 18th century, Stanes Chamberlayne of Stoney Thorpe being vouchee in a recovery of 1792.<sup>54</sup>

The existing church<sup>55</sup> of *ALL SAINTS CHURCH* is situated to the west of the village on the summit of a hill and stands in a large churchyard. It was completed in 1837 from designs by Rickman, and except for the addition of a choir vestry and a new east window inserted in 1936 as a memorial, it is unaltered. It is built of brick faced with stone ashlar and consists of a chancel, nave, north and south aisles, west tower, vestry and choir vestry. The east end has diagonal buttresses at the angles, moulded coping to the gable with a cross finial and is lighted by a pointed traceried window of five lights, the centre light cinquefoil and the others trefoil, the hood-mould being taken round a quatrefoil piercing above the window in ogee form, terminating in a foliated finial. The north and south sides each have a three-light traceried window. Both aisles have pointed two-light windows above the vestry roofs. The vestries on either side of the chancel are of one story with flat roofs, pierced parapets, and diagonal buttresses at the angles. The aisles and clearstory are divided into four bays by buttresses, with a string-course at sill level and a plain parapet to the low-pitched slated nave roof. The aisles have three pointed traceried windows of two trefoil lights with hood-moulds and the

<sup>29</sup> Nichols, *Leics.* iv, 371.

<sup>30</sup> Feet of F. Div. Cos. Hil. 18 Hen. VIII.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid. Mich. 13-14 Eliz.

<sup>32</sup> *Warw. Cos. Records*, iii, 315.

<sup>33</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Hil. 19-20 Chas. II.

<sup>34</sup> Ibid. Warw. Mich. 25 Chas. II.; Recov. R. Mich. 25 Chas. II., no. 219.

<sup>35</sup> Recov. R. East. 10 Anne, no. 173.

<sup>36</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1327-30, p. 462.

<sup>37</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 79.

<sup>38</sup> *Rot. Hund.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 225.

<sup>39</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xviii), 2067.

<sup>40</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* xi, 144 (p. 142); Chan. Inq. p.m. 1 Edw. IV, 46.

<sup>41</sup> From the reign of Henry VI (Dugd. 42, quoting MSS. of Sir Francis Nethersole).

<sup>42</sup> Leadam, *Dem. Incl.* 430.

<sup>43</sup> Dugd. 42.

<sup>44</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), xlvii, 23.

<sup>45</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 25-6 Eliz.

<sup>46</sup> Ibid. Trin. 5 Chas. I.

<sup>47</sup> Dugd. 42.

<sup>48</sup> Feet of F. East. 17 Chas. II; Recov. R. East. 17 Chas. II, no. 131.

<sup>49</sup> Recov. R. East. 7 Anne, no. 75. Ibid.

<sup>50</sup> Trin. 13 Geo. II, no. 321.

<sup>51</sup> Burke, *Landed Gentry* (1906).

<sup>52</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cxxvii, 10; cxli, 5.

<sup>53</sup> Recov. R. Hil. 18 Eliz., no. 459.

<sup>54</sup> Feet of F. Warw. East. 22 Eliz.

<sup>55</sup> Recov. R. Mich. 33 Geo. III, no. 45. See also Feet of F. Hil. 22 Jas. I, and Div. Cos. Hil. 1650; Recov. R. Hil. 1650, no. 27, and Trin. 8 Anne, no. 105.

<sup>56</sup> A view of the old church in the Aylesford Collection (c. 1820) shows that it consisted of a chancel, a nave with south (and possibly north) aisle under one roof, south porch, and wooden tower, a bell-cote, with pyramidal cap at the west end of the south aisle. The windows suggest a 14th-century date for most of the structure, the porch being probably 18th-century.

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

four clearstory circular lights are of trefoiled cusping with ogee hood-moulds terminating in floriated finials. The tower rises in three stages, with buttresses at each angle, and finishes with a plain coping on a moulded string-course. The west door has a pointed moulded arch flanked by small buttresses with crocketed gabled heads terminating in floriated finials. The second stage has a single trefoil light with a hood-mould and the belfry two-light windows with ogee crocketed labels on each face. The north side has two single pointed lights and a clock dial in the second stage. The south side has a single trefoil pointed window in the lower stage. The west ends of the aisles have single trefoil lights, with circular windows above to light the gallery.

The chancel (20 ft. by 12 ft.) is paved with stone and has five steps from the nave to the altar. The ceiling is quadripartite-vaulting with moulded ribs, carved bosses, and slender attached shafts with moulded capitals on foliated corbels. In the side walls there are shallow niches with segmental heads, cusped and supported on attached shafts with moulded capitals and bases.

The nave (49 ft. 6 in. by 20 ft.) has a vaulted ceiling continued from the chancel, which is without a chancel arch, and a boarded floor. The arcades are of four bays of moulded pointed arches, the inner order supported on attached shafts and the outer continued to form hexagonal pillars with splayed stops on a plain hexagonal base. The clearstory windows are in moulded recesses with segmental-pointed arches, the lower part of the recesses being panelled. The font, placed under the gallery on the south side of the entrance, is octagonal, with panelled sides, small buttresses at the angles, moulded capping and a circular basin of white enamel. The pulpit, south of the chancel, is of stone, octagonal with trefoil-headed panels on a circular moulded base and opposite a somewhat similar reading-desk.

The aisles (47 ft. by 10 ft.) have similar vaulting to the nave, supported on moulded corbels. A gallery extends right across the church at the west end supported on a stone arcade of seven segmental arched bays on clustered shafts. At the back of the gallery there is a deep splayed pointed arch recess to the tower with a door to the tower staircase. In the centre of the gallery are the pipes of an organ.

The tower (12 ft. 6 in. by 13 ft. 6 in.) forms a lobby to the west door. The tower staircase is carried in straight flights round the walls and gives access to the gallery. On the west wall there is a list of charities from 1687 to 1839.

The plate consists of a silver flagon, silver chalice, and silver paten, all inscribed 'Francis and Thermuthis Fauquier of Stoneythorpe in the County of Warwick to the Parish of Stretton on Dunsmore 1795'. There are also a silver chalice with hallmark of 1673, a silver spoon, and three pewter plates.

There are three bells, one by Hugh Watts, 1620, and two by Joseph Smith, 1705.<sup>56</sup>

The registers of burials begin in 1681 and those of baptisms and marriages in 1695.

Stretton - upon - Dunsmore and *ADFOU*SON Princethorpe were hamlets of Wolston till 1696, when William Herbert demised two cottages valued at £40, held on a 1,000-year lease in Long Itchington of the lord of the manor of that village, to provide a stipend for a vicar for the two villages.<sup>57</sup>

There is no mention of a chapel in the *Taxatio*, but in 1345 Thomas de Wolvardyngton, parson of Lubenham (Leics.), was licensed to alienate 3 messuages, 3 virgates of land, 4 acres of meadow, and 3 of wood, with 20s. rent, in Stretton and Princethorpe, to provide two chaplains to celebrate at the altar of St. Thomas the Martyr in the chapel of All Saints at Stretton for the souls of himself and Peter de Wolvardyngton and Aline his wife.<sup>58</sup> This chantry may have lapsed owing to the Black Death, for in 1350 Robert de Stretton, Bishop of Lichfield 1360-86, had licence to alienate to provide a chantry priest here, though he did not carry out his scheme till 1378, when he set aside 4 messuages and 8 virgates in Stretton, valued at £4, for the good estate of the king, his father, and grandfather.<sup>59</sup>

In any case, only one chantry is mentioned in the *Valor*, when its value was £4 14s.<sup>60</sup> In 1545 this chantry was surrendered by John Shyrborne its priest and Richard (Sampson), Bishop of Lichfield, the patron, and the possessions thereof granted for life to Francis Everarde of London, with remainder to the king.<sup>61</sup> In 1581-2 it was regranted to Sir Christopher Hatton and his heirs,<sup>62</sup> and in 1673 Charles Hatton, 2nd son of Christopher 1st Lord Hatton, and Mary his wife, passed it to John Rushworth.<sup>63</sup>

On the formation of the separate parish the patronage was vested in Mary Chamberlayne, her executors or assigns (2 turns) and Fisher Wentworth (patron of the mother church of Wolston), his executors or assigns (1 turn); the Act lays down that every vicar presented 'shall be approved by the major part of the inhabitants . . . of Stretton and Princethorpe'.<sup>64</sup> The two shares of the Chamberlayne family, at that time lords of a manor in Princethorpe, passed to the Fauquieres through Elizabeth, wife of Francis Fauquier, Lieutenant Governor of Virginia.<sup>65</sup> A Francis Fauquier sold his next turn to Henry Sawbridge in 1795.<sup>66</sup> The Wentworth share was in 1850 in the hands of the Rev. H. T. Powell, the incumbent.<sup>67</sup> This latter share remained with the Powell family till between 1900 and 1915 when it was transferred to the Bishop; the Fauquier shares were before 1900 handed over to the Simeon Trustees.<sup>68</sup>

Henry Johnson, by will dated *CHARITIES* 18 August 1719, charged his estate in

Stretton-on-Dunsmore with the yearly payment of 10s., to be distributed in bread by the churchwardens and overseers to the poor of the parish on the Sunday next before 'Twelfth Day'.

Rhoda Marriott, by will dated 23 February 1827, bequeathed £10, the interest to be expended in bread on every New Year's day and given to such aged poor widows and widowers of this parish who should have attended divine service on that day.

<sup>56</sup> Tilley and Walters, *Church Bells of Warwick*, 210-1.

<sup>57</sup> Dugd. 42-3, giving an abstract of the Act of Parliament.

<sup>58</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1343-5, pp. 540-1, 1345-8, p. 354; *Chan. Inq. a.q.d.* cclxxv, 3. John son of the parson of Lubenham was living in Stretton in 1348, when he was

pardoned for a homicide: *Cal. Pat.* 1348-50, p. 126.

<sup>59</sup> *Ibid.* 1350-4, p. 3; 1377-81, pp. 106, 271.

<sup>60</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 63.

<sup>61</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII.* xx (1), 874.

<sup>62</sup> *Pat.* 24 Eliz. pt. 5.

<sup>63</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 25 Chas. II.

<sup>64</sup> Dugd. 43.

<sup>65</sup> Burke, *Landed Gentry*, ed. 1846, i, 203.

<sup>66</sup> *Recov. R. Trin.* 35 Geo. III, ro. 15.

<sup>67</sup> White, *Directory Warw.* 677.

<sup>68</sup> Kelly, *Directory Warw.* (1900); *Clergy List* (1915).

William Smith. This parish participates in this charity to the amount of 4s. each year, which in accordance with the terms of the bequest is required to be distributed in bread to the poorest people of the parish. For particulars of the charity see under parish of Bilton.

Elizabeth Taylor by will, date unknown, charged certain land in the parish with the payment of £3 every seventh year, to be applied towards putting out an apprentice.

Mary Turner. This parish participates in this charity to the amount of 6s. 8d. each year, to be applied for the relief of the impotent and most needy people dwelling in the parish. For particulars of the charity see under parish of Ryton-on-Dunsmore.

The above-mentioned charities are regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 5 October 1915 which appoints a body of trustees to administer the charities. The annual income of the charities, excluding the charity of Elizabeth Taylor, amounts to £1 5s. 8d.

Poor's Plot. It is stated in the printed Parliamentary Reports of the former Commissioners for Inquiring Concerning Charities dated in 1834 that the lands belonging to this charity have been applied to the use of the poor from a very early period, but the first formal notice found occurs in an indenture dated 2 June 1704 whereby an inclosure was made of certain open fields in the parish of Stretton. It is also stated in the Report that the rents, after deducting expenses for repairs, is divided on St. John's Day (27 December) among all the poor of the parish according to the members in family, and is laid out in coals.

Church and Poor's Land. It is also stated in the Report that the origin of the property belonging to this charity is not known, but it appears from old parish books that the rents have been divided between the church and the poor for a great number of years.

William Herbert, by will dated 15 August 1694, bequeathed his property at Shilton in trust to pay yearly out of the rents and profits £12 to three aged men and three aged widows of the town of Stretton-upon-Dunsmore, if such should be there found, or else to six such other persons as should have most need, 40s. each for life by half-yearly payments; and upon further trust to pay 20s. for the yearly preaching of two sermons at Stretton Church, one on Ascension Day and the other on 21 October, to be paid to the minister that should preach them; and upon further trust to employ the residue of the yearly profits for putting out one poor boy or girl of Stretton to be an apprentice to some good trade every two years. In 1786 a case was laid before Sir Pepper Arden, then Attorney General, inquiring whether the trustees would be justified in applying a part of the rents towards the support of a school, as being a charitable use consonant with the will of the donor, the rents having then increased to £30 a year. Under the sanction of his opinion a school was then established.

The above-mentioned charities are regulated by a scheme of the High Court of Chancery dated 8 August 1859. By an Order dated 20 March 1906 the Charity Commissioners determined what part of the endowments ought to be applied to educational purposes.

Princethorpe Allotment Charity and Stretton Field Charity. By an Award under an Act of Parliament for the inclosure of the Princethorpe open common field dated 18 December 1762 the Commissioners awarded to the trustees and feoffees of the poor of Stretton and Princethorpe three plots of ground containing 7 a. 1 r. 23 p., 3 a. 1 r. 5 p., and 2 a. 1 r. 7 p. The charities are now regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 5 April 1918 which directs that the income of each charity shall be applied for the benefit of the poor of the respective parishes in such ways as the trustees think fit. The annual income of the Stretton Field Charity amounts to £22 15s. 8d.

## UFTON

Acreege: 1,793.

Population: 1911, 181; 1921, 187; 1931, 208.

This is a small parish and village on the main road from Northampton to Warwick, 2½ miles west of Southam. Two small streams rise near the centre of the parish and flow eastwards to the Itchen at Southam, and northwards to join a nameless tributary of the Leam which, with the Warwick branch of the Grand Union Canal, forms the northern boundary. On the southern edge of the parish the ground is about 400 ft. above sea level, but falls away rather sharply north of the village to 211 ft. where the Warwick road leaves the parish on the west. Ufton Wood occupies a considerable area in the north-east. A fairly important road from Harbury to Long Itchington intersects the main road at Ufton Cross, ½ mile east of the village, which is built mainly along a by-road running southwards to join this road on the southern boundary. The nearest station is Southam Road and Harbury, on the former G.W.R. main line to Birmingham. The ecclesiastical parish is larger than the civil, taking in

the hamlets of Bascote Heath and Stoneythorpe in Long Itchington.

In the 1860's all the land, except about 90 acres, belonged to Balliol College, Oxford. As in most close parishes the supply of labour was barely adequate, being eked out from the larger neighbouring villages like Harbury and Southam. The cottages were better than in most of the district: they let for £2 or £3 a year with gardens and allotments.<sup>1</sup>

UFTON was one of the fifteen Warwickshire shire villis given by Earl Leofric to Coventry

Priory on its foundation in 1043,<sup>2</sup> and it remained in monastic hands up to the Reformation, except for a temporary disturbance in the reign of Stephen.<sup>3</sup> It was rated in 1086 at 4 hides; the value had fluctuated from £4 before 1066 to 40s. and in 1086 100s.<sup>4</sup> There was a grant of free warren in 1257,<sup>5</sup> and in 1279 the demesnes amounted to 2 carucates; at that date there were also 4 cottars, and 30 serfs holding 15 yardlands, 6 freeholders with 4½ yardlands, and a 10-acre wood. The prior had court leet and the

<sup>1</sup> *Reports from Commissioners, 1868-9*, vol. xvii, Appx. pt. II, p. 226.

<sup>2</sup> Dugdale, *Mon. Angl.* iii, 191.

<sup>3</sup> His confirmation charter (*Cal. Chart. R. v*, 99-100) refers to Ufton, along with

Chadshunt, (Bishop's) Itchington and Southam, as newly recovered (*noviter recuperaverunt*) by precept of Pope Eugenius III. Pope Innocent II also in 1139 includes Ufton in the estates re-

covered by Bishop Roger de Clinton for the convent: *Magn. Reg. Alb.* (Wm. Salt Soc.), no. 454.

<sup>4</sup> *P.C.H. Warrw.* i, 305.

<sup>5</sup> *Cal. Chart. R.* i, 472.

assize of bread and ale.<sup>6</sup> The total revenue derived by the priory from this vill in 1291 amounted to £21 6s., including 6s. 8d. from a windmill.<sup>7</sup> Licence to alienate in mortmain to the priory was granted to Thomas son of Gervase de Wauton and John de Warewell for 40 acres in 1284, to William son of Richard de Staunton for 10s. rent in 1290, and to John de Merston for 4 messuages and 44 acres in 1313.<sup>8</sup> A dispute as to tenure occurred in 1285, when Robert de Pinkney claimed Ufton in the right of his ancestor Gerard de Limesi, who he alleged had it in the reign of John, which was rebutted by the prior with the foundation charter and confirmations of it by various kings.<sup>9</sup> Robert remitted his claims and was received into the prayers of the monks.<sup>10</sup> Ufton was coupled with Offchurch as part of the barony of the Prior of Coventry in 1316.<sup>11</sup>

Ufton was not a very valuable manor, and in 1535 was worth only £20 18s. 10d. to the priory,<sup>12</sup> a decrease since 1291. It may be for this reason that it frequently changed hands within a few years of the Dissolution. The manor was first granted in fee, at an annual rent of 44s. 2½d.,<sup>13</sup> to Thomas Wriothesley, Lord Chancellor, with lands in the tenancy of Thomas Lowe (two holdings), Edward Knyves (late of Thomas Aylesworth), Thomas Heycoke, and Robert Robson. Wriothesley was licensed to alienate it to William Staunford.<sup>14</sup> Staunford in turn passed it to Sir Andrew Flammocke and Elizabeth his wife the following year,<sup>15</sup> Sir Andrew dying in possession in 1549.<sup>16</sup> His son William made a settlement of it on his marriage (1555) to Joan (Hasilwood),<sup>17</sup> but in 1559 he sold it to Sir John Spencer.<sup>18</sup> The latter apparently settled it on his third son William, of Yarnton (Oxon.), whose son Sir Thomas Spencer, bart., was dealing with it in 1621<sup>19</sup> and died in possession the following year.<sup>20</sup> The manor continued with this family<sup>21</sup> till 1674, when it was sold by William Spencer, probably a grandson of Sir Thomas's second son Thomas (who married one of the Wagstaffes of Harbury),<sup>22</sup> and Mary his wife to John Snell,<sup>23</sup> a Scotsman and graduate of Glasgow University. Snell died in 1679 having bequeathed the manor and lands, then worth about £450 a year, to the maintenance of Scottish students at the University of Oxford.<sup>24</sup> A decision of the Court of Chancery in 1693 directed the Snell Exhibitors to Balliol College, in whom the manorial rights have since been vested.<sup>25</sup> During the 18th century the college leased them to various individuals, including Thomas Byrd (1728-30) and Jeremiah Alder of Tachbrook (1784).<sup>26</sup>

The church of *ST. MICHAEL* stands on the crest of a hill and towards the north side of the churchyard, which is banked up above the road by a retaining wall. The church

consists of a chancel, nave, north and south aisles, west tower, and south porch. There appears to have been a church here early in the 13th century, probably consisting only of a nave and chancel; the doorway in the south aisle is of this date and it was probably removed from the nave and re-erected when the aisle was built; the rest of the church is mainly 14th-century, with the exception of the belfry stage of the tower, which is 15th-century. The pitch of the aisle roofs was lowered for the insertion of clearstory windows, probably in the 16th century. In 1860 the chancel arch, porch, and the wall of the south aisle were rebuilt, and the nave re-roofed; and in 1881 the south aisle was also re-roofed.

The east wall of the chancel is built of coursed limestone rubble with red sandstone dressings and diagonal buttresses at the angles. The east window has a pointed arch in two orders, the outer moulded; it is of three pointed lights, the centre one trefoiled, running up to the head of the arch. The south side is built of coursed rubble interspersed with squared blocks. In the centre is a narrow ogee-headed doorway of one play and a hood-mould with the stops broken off; east of the door is a square-headed window of two trefoil lights, with jamb mouldings like the east window; only a few jamb stones are original. West of the doorway there is a blocked low-side window, having moulded jambs and a pointed trefoiled head in one piece. The north side is similar, but without a doorway.

The south-aisle wall has all been rebuilt in coursed rubble; there are three modern windows, two east of the porch, the other west; that to the east is of two ogee trefoil lights of one play with a flat head and hood-mould, the other two are similar but single lights. In the east wall there is a similar window but with three lights, and in the west wall a single light with a trefoil head with a pointed label moulding. The porch has been entirely rebuilt, with small diagonal buttresses and a low-pitched lead-covered roof. The entrance has a pointed arch of two played orders, hood-mould with head-stops, and a single trefoil light on each side. The south door dates from the 13th century but has been restored; it has a pointed arch of two chamfered orders, the outer resting on detached shafts with moulded capitals and bases. The capitals are decorated with a row of nail heads, the chamfer has moulded stops above the capitals, and the inner order is carried down to played stops; the jambs on either side have chamfers with carved stops top and bottom. The clearstory is of coursed rubble interspersed with squared blocks. There are three windows in two chamfered orders of two ogee trefoil lights, with square heads with cusped panelled spandrels, and label mouldings with return ends. The north aisle has a modern trefoil ogee two-light window with a flat head, hood-mould, and panelled spandrels, a similar window on the north, and on the west a window of two pointed lights with a pointed arch and hood-mould with head-stops. In the north wall of the nave



BALLIOL COLLEGE.  
Gules a voided scutcheon  
argent.

<sup>6</sup> Dugd. 356 (K.R. Misc. Bks. 15).  
<sup>7</sup> Tax. Eccl. (Rec. Com.), 253.  
<sup>8</sup> Cal. Pat. 1281-92, pp. 118, 384;  
1313-17, p. 48.  
<sup>9</sup> Dugd. 357.  
<sup>10</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xv), 1038.  
<sup>11</sup> Feet of F. 177.  
<sup>12</sup> Valor Eccl. (Rec. Com.), iii, 49-50.  
<sup>13</sup> Monastic Estates in Warwick. (Dugd. Soc. ii), 63.  
<sup>14</sup> L. and P. Hen. VIII, xx (1), 1081

(24, 58).  
<sup>15</sup> Ibid. xxi (1), 970 (62, p. 480).  
<sup>16</sup> Exch. Inq. p.m. 1151, no. 3.  
<sup>17</sup> Add. MS. 28564, fol. 152.  
<sup>18</sup> Cal. Pat. 1558-60, p. 129; Feet of F. Warw. Hil. 1 Eliz.  
<sup>19</sup> Feet of F. Div. Cos. Trin. 18 Jas. I.  
<sup>20</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccxii, 134.  
<sup>21</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Trin. 15 Chas. I.  
<sup>22</sup> Stapleton, Three Oxfordshire Parishes (Oxf. Hist. Soc. xxiv), 285.

<sup>23</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 26 Chas. II.  
<sup>24</sup> Dugd. 357; Diet. Nat. Biog. The great increase in the value of the property since 1535 may be attributed to the substitution of the modern commercial for the customary type of rent.  
<sup>25</sup> White, Directory Warw. (1850), 648; P.R.O. List (1932).  
<sup>26</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations, Shire Hall, Warwick.



there is a wave-moulded doorway having a pointed head and a plain label above it. West of the doorway there is a large window of three trefoil lights and trefoil tracery with a pointed arch and hood-mould. This window is modern but has an old wave-moulded rear-arch.

The tower is built of alternate wide and narrow courses of roughly squared sandstone, except the added belfry, which is dark brown sandstone ashlar. It has a moulded plinth, diagonal buttresses on the west, at right angles on the east; they rise in four weathered stages. On the west it is divided into three stages by string-courses and a weathered offset to the added stage.<sup>27</sup> It has an embattled parapet, of which only the lower portion of the merlons remains, and its angle pinnacles are missing; there are traces of shields in the centre merlons, and at the base of the parapet are the remains of central gargoyles on each face, flanked with carved heads in the hollow moulding. On the west side there is a tracery window to the lower stage, of two chamfered orders with two trefoil lights with a quatrefoil in a pointed head with a label moulding; the mullion, tracery, and inner order are modern; above there is a clock dial. The belfry windows are in two chamfered orders, of two lights divided by a transom with a four-centred head, the upper lights have trefoil pointed heads and the lower cinquefoil; the lower lights have been carried down into the second stage on all four faces and the offset has been dipped to form played sills.

The chancel (32 ft. 6 in. by 15 ft. 6 in.) has a modern open roof with curved trusses, plastered between the rafters, and the walls are plastered. The east window has a pointed moulded arch continued down to stops on a played cill. On the south side near the east end of the wall is a mutilated piscina with a moulded trefoiled head, traces of pinnacles on either side, and a finial above; it has a fluted basin and a stone shelf fixed half-way up the recess. The south door has a segmental-pointed rear-arch, and both the low-side windows appear as rectangular recesses. There are two steps to the altar, which is modern.

The nave (44 ft. 4 in. by 15 ft. 6 in.) has some original carved corbels supporting the modern roof, two on the north side and three on the south. Both the arcades have pointed arches of two played orders springing from octagonal pillars with moulded capitals, that on the north side consists of only two bays, but the western respond is a pillar half embedded in the nave wall, and the springer of another arch to the west is still in position. The other arcade consists of four bays, the eastern bay being a later insertion cut through a wall of a chapel at the eastern end of the south aisle, it springs from responds, one moulded and the other foliated. The capitals are moulded but are somewhat plainer than those on the north side. The east bay has been partitioned off to form a vestry and the organ is placed under the arch. The modern pointed chancel arch is of two plays dying out on the walls. The clearstory windows have widely played jambs with four-centred chamfered rear-arches, and the modern tracery window at the west end on the north side has an original wave-moulded pointed rear-arch. The pointed tower arch is lofty and of two played orders, the inner supported on responds with capitals and played bases, the outer carried down to the ground

on the nave side and on the tower dying out on the walls.

The pulpit, placed to the north of the chancel arch, was made up of 16th-century carved panels from the old pulpit when its lower desk was removed and the pulpit lowered in 1860; other parts have been incorporated in the reading-desk. At the west end of the nave there are two late-15th-century benches; one has a head carved above a pierced panel, the other has a little buttress at the end surmounted by a crocketed pinnacle.

The south aisle (41 ft. 2 in. by 11 ft. 9 in.) has a lean-to roof with curved brackets to the trusses and matchboarded on the underside. The south door has a segmental wave-moulded rear-arch of later date than the doorway. Close to the east wall there is a piscina with a trefoiled head of one splay, and a modern shelf in place of the basin. The font, which is placed in the centre of the western bay of the arcade, is a modern replica of the 14th-century original. It is hexagonal, with six plain faces, and stands on a pedestal with an engaged shaft at each angle, having moulded capitals enriched with foliage and their bases covered over with a cement splay; the shafts are probably original. On the sill of the western window there is an infant's stone coffin, with a drain hole, measuring internally 1 ft. 9 in. by 7 in. wide at the shoulders.

The north aisle (20 ft. 7 in. by 12 ft. 8 in.) has a 17th-century oak panelled dado and a modern lean-to roof re-using some of the earlier roof timbers. In the east wall there is a restored piscina with a trefoil pointed arch and a badly mutilated original basin. Near this piscina there is a brass on which are the incised figures of a man and his wife, kneeling one on either side of a prayer-desk; behind the man are the figures of three sons, they are clad in cloaks and ruffles; behind the woman are four daughters in dresses with large sleeves and ruffles; the wife has a stiff hat and the daughters are in caps. There is an inscription as follows: 'Here lyeth the boddies of Richard Woddomes parson and patron and vossioner (*sic*) of the Chirche and parishe of Oufton in the Countie of Warrike who died one mydsomer daye 1587. And Margerye his Wiffe w<sup>th</sup> her seven childryn as namelye Richard, John, and John, Anne, Jane, Elizabeth, Ayles, his iiiii daughters. Whose soule resteth with God.'

The tower (9 ft. 5 in. by 9 ft. 5 in.) has no staircase, access being by means of a ladder to a trap-door.

The communion plate includes a chalice, two patens, and a flagon of 1773 given by Richard Dorcy, prebendary of Ufton.

The registers begin in 1708.

Close to the south entrance to the churchyard there is a cross, the head of which dates from the close of the 14th century. It has four panelled sides with trefoils, crocketed heads, small crocketed pinnacles at the angles, and a crocketed pyramidal top surmounted by a finial. The four panels have carved figures of St. Chad, St. Catherine, the Crucifixion, and the Blessed Virgin Mary. The cross-head was dug up in the churchyard and after restoration it was provided with a new shaft and base before being set up in 1862.

The history of the church is rather *ADVOWSON* confusing. Bishop Roger de Clinton who, as mentioned, recovered Ufton, is said to have constituted the church a prebend in Lichfield Cathedral;<sup>28</sup> and a prebendary of Ufton

<sup>27</sup> The other sides have no string-courses to mark the second stage.

<sup>28</sup> Wharton, *Anglia Sacra*, i, 434.

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occurs in 1255;<sup>29</sup> Dugdale, however, alleges that the church, with its endowment of one yardland, was appropriated to Coventry Priory in 1260.<sup>30</sup> It was valued at £9 6s. 8d. in 1291,<sup>31</sup> when no mention of any appropriation is made, and Ufton does not appear among the Lichfield prebends at that time. By 1319 the church had been divided into two moieties,<sup>32</sup> each 'esteemed to be a prebend',<sup>33</sup> to which the prior and convent apparently presented.<sup>34</sup> In 1535 the prebends of Ufton Decani and Ufton Cantoris were each worth £2 13s. 4d.<sup>35</sup> and the church, which was appropriated to them, was served by a stipendiary priest paid out of the small tithes at £4 13s. 4d. a year.<sup>36</sup>

The living remained a curacy in the gift of the prebendaries till the latter part of the 19th century when it was converted into a rectory. The patronage was transferred to the Bishop as ordinary under the reform of cathedral chapters enacted by 3 & 4 Vict. c. 113.

The Charity of Thomas Horley. By a CHARITY Declaration of Trust dated 25 October 1877 a sum of £200 was settled upon trust, the interest, amounting to £5 3s., to be paid to the rector and churchwardens of Ufton for the purchase of coals or warm clothing to be distributed to the poor of this parish.

## WAPPENBURY AND EATHORPE

### Wappenbury

Acreege: 953.

Population: 1911, 74; 1921, 60; 1931, 70.

### Eathorpe.

Acreege: 531.

Population: 1911, 153; 1921, 142; 1931, 140.

The parish of Wappenbury and hamlet of Eathorpe lie on the banks of the Leam, about 4 miles north-east of Leamington Spa. The river divides Wappenbury proper from Eathorpe on the east and from the parish of Hunningham on the south. Wappenbury contains the valley of a small brook rising near Wappenbury Wood in the north of the parish and joining the Leam just south-west of the village; there is a larger tributary, running more or less parallel, forming the western boundary of the parish. The northern end is mostly occupied by Wappenbury Wood, which is large (300 to 400 acres), and here is the highest ground (328 ft.); the rest of the parish is mostly in pasture. The secondary road from Leamington to Rugby takes a somewhat zigzag course across the middle of the parish, the village being about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile south of this, on a by-road. The site of the village is well adapted for defence, the north bank of the Leam being fairly steep at this point, and is surrounded by earthworks, the 'burh' which gave the village its name.<sup>1</sup> The village has always been a small one, there being no licensed alehouse till 1642;<sup>2</sup> there is now no public house here. There is a Roman Catholic chapel, built in 1849 on a site given by Lord Clifford.

Eathorpe, with a larger population than Wappenbury, is bounded on the north and west by the Leam, and on the east by that river and its tributary the Itchen, the highest ground (278 ft.) being roughly in the centre of the parish. Much of the hamlet is taken up with the grounds of Eathorpe Park and Eathorpe Hall, the latter causing a slight westward diversion of the Fosse Way, which forms the village street. The village consists of a group of 18th-century red-brick houses with tiled roofs and a few timber-framed cottages. At the southern end of the village is Eathorpe Hall, a long rectangular 18th-century building of two stories, built of red brick with stone dressings, and a tiled roof. The front is symmetrical,

with a central porch, rectangular windows with flat stone arches, equally spaced, and finished with a projecting cornice. There are bridges across the Itchen east to Marton, and across the Leam north to Princesthorpe, and west to Wappenbury. This last-named bridge crosses by Eathorpe Corn Mill, the pond of which was famous in the early 19th century for its eels, which were very large, but 'not pleasant to look at, being not silver but spotted like serpents'.<sup>3</sup> At that time the Coventry road, north from Eathorpe, ran by Stonyford, which was liable to be dangerous in the rainy season. About 1819 the Rev. Mr. Williams, a Welshman and ex-fellow of Wadham who was vicar of Wappenbury, 'being much intoxicated', tried to ride through the flooded ford and was drowned.<sup>4</sup>

Sir Robert Viner (1631-88), Lord Mayor of London, was a member of an Eathorpe family, being third son of William Viner<sup>5</sup> who died in 1639 seised of tenements there,<sup>6</sup> which were still in the hands of the family as late as 1830.<sup>7</sup>

The 5-hide vill of WAPPENBURY MANORS was in 1086 held by Geoffrey de Wirce; the pre-Conquest tenant is not named. The total value in both 1066 and 1086 was 110s., of which a mill contributed 6s. 8d.<sup>8</sup> Geoffrey de Wirce was succeeded in his Warwickshire estates by Niel d'Aubigny,<sup>9</sup> of whose son, Roger de Mowbray, Thomas de Woppenberi held 5 fees of *antiquo feodo* in 1166.<sup>10</sup> The Mowbray overlordship of Wappenbury is again recorded in 1298 (as to 4½ fees),<sup>11</sup> 1400 (a similar assessment),<sup>12</sup> and 1461, when the high rating is explained by the 4 fees then recorded including the hamlet of Eathorpe and lands in six other villages besides Wappenbury.<sup>13</sup>

An intermediate tenancy was established in 1201, when William de Mowbray assigned the service of Richard de Wappenbury for 4½ knights' fees to William de Stuteville.<sup>14</sup> His granddaughter Joan, daughter and heir of Nicholas de Stuteville, married Hugh Wake,<sup>15</sup> and the holder of the Mowbray fees in 1298 was Baldwin Wake.<sup>16</sup> In 1349 Thomas Wake of Liddell was stated to hold 2 fees in Wappenbury and Fenny Neubold (Newbold Revel).<sup>17</sup> Through the marriage of his sister Margaret to Edmund, Earl

<sup>29</sup> Magn. Reg. Alb. (Wm. Salt Soc.), no. 24.

<sup>30</sup> Dugd. 357.

<sup>31</sup> Tax. Eccl. (Rec. Com.), 241.

<sup>32</sup> Magn. Reg. Alb. no. 571.

<sup>33</sup> Cal. Pat. 1396-9, p. 402.

<sup>34</sup> Dugd. 357.

<sup>35</sup> Valor Eccl. (Rec. Com.), iii, 131.

<sup>36</sup> Ibid. 71.

<sup>1</sup> For description of these earthworks see *V.C.H. Warwick*, i, 400-2.

<sup>2</sup> *Warw. Co. Rec.*, ii, 109.

<sup>3</sup> Add. MS. 29264, fol. 211.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Dict. Nat. Bing.

<sup>6</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), ccccxciii, 73.

<sup>7</sup> Add. MS. 29264, fol. 211.

<sup>8</sup> *V.C.H. Warwick*, i, 336.

<sup>9</sup> Dugd. 75; *V.C.H. Warwick*, i, 275-6.

<sup>10</sup> Red. Bk. of Exch. (Rolls Ser.), 419.

<sup>11</sup> Cal. Inq. p.m. iii, 472 (p. 359).

<sup>12</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. i Hen. IV, 71 b.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid. i Edw. IV, 46.

<sup>14</sup> Curia Regis R. i, 440.

<sup>15</sup> Dugdale, Baronage, i, 456, 540.

<sup>16</sup> Cal. Inq. p.m. iii, 472.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid. ix, 219 (p. 208).



STRUTTON-ON-DUNSMORE CHURCH, c. 1820



WAPPESBURY CHURCH, c. 1820





of Kent, these fees passed to the earldom,<sup>18</sup> Elizabeth, dowager Countess of Kent (widow of Edmund's second son John) holding them at her death in 1411,<sup>19</sup> and her daughter Joan, Duchess of York, in 1434.<sup>20</sup> The latter left various sisters, nephews, and nieces as coheirs, and this intermediate overlordship is not further recorded.

Thomas de Wappenbury's descendant Richard was in 1208 summoned to show why he did not keep the terms of his charter made with Geoffrey fitz Piers, Earl of Essex, regarding his wood at Wappenbury, and undertook not to alienate to a Jew or to any other person so as to disinherit Thomas his son and heir.<sup>21</sup> This Thomas held 2½ fees of Niel de Mowbray in Warwickshire and Leicestershire at the beginning of the reign of Henry III;<sup>22</sup> he had sided with the barons against John and his forfeited lands were restored to him in 1217.<sup>23</sup> He was the holder of one fee in Wappenbury in 1235–6.<sup>24</sup> Thomas died without issue, leaving three sisters as coheirresses:<sup>25</sup> Margery, who married (? Robert) de Wassingle; Joan, whose daughter Alice married Robert Revel, or Ryvel; and Agnes, wife of (? Richard) de Beyvill. Accordingly, in 1349 Wappenbury was held of Thomas Wake by Roger de Wappenbury, Lora widow of Richard de Beyvill, and John Revel.<sup>26</sup> This Roger de Wappenbury, who was in 1332 the largest taxpayer in this parish, Lora de Beyvill being next largest,<sup>27</sup> was in fact a member of the Wassinglegh family. In 1314 Thomas de Wassinglegh entailed (his share of) the manor, subject to a life tenancy for himself, on Roger de Wassinglegh and his heirs by Maud his wife, with remainder to his own right heirs.<sup>28</sup> Thomas was lord of Wappenbury *cum membris* in 1316,<sup>29</sup> but the descent of this estate after Roger's death is obscure. Lora widow of Richard de Beyvill died in 1350 in possession of the capital messuage here, with 60 acres of arable land, 4 of meadow, a wood, 3 messuages, 3 cottages, and 20 acres in the common fields, without tenants owing to the Black Death,<sup>30</sup> which seems also to have carried off her son Richard.<sup>31</sup> Her grandson Robert being a child of 5, the wardship was granted to William de Peck, at an annual rent of 10 marks.<sup>32</sup> Robert Beyvill proved his age in 1363,<sup>33</sup> and in 1375 settled his third of the manor on his son Robert on the marriage of the latter to Alice daughter of John de Ryslee,<sup>34</sup> but the younger Robert seems to have predeceased his father.

The Wassinglegh portion of the manor seems to have come to the family of Stafford.<sup>35</sup> Thomas Stafford was described as 'of Wappenbury' in 1419.<sup>36</sup> His son Richard Stafford and Ralph Bellars were joint lords in 1431–2, the latter passing his title to Nicholas Metley six years later.<sup>37</sup> Metley's daughter and heir Margaret brought the manor to John Hugford,<sup>38</sup>

whose estates were divided after his death in 1485 between his three heirs—John Beaufort, son of his eldest daughter Joan, and his other daughters Alice and Ann.<sup>39</sup> Wappenbury seems to have been allotted to John, who in 1512 exchanged it, with Wolston and Marston, for Emscote with his cousin John Cotes,<sup>40</sup> son of Alice Hugford. He at once made an exchange of this 'third of the manor' to Sir Edward Belknap;<sup>41</sup> and on his death without issue the following year it passed to Philip Cooke of Gidea Hall (Essex),<sup>42</sup> husband of his sister and coheir Elizabeth. The manor may have been divided at this time into four parts, the other heirs being Mary wife of George Danett, Alice wife of Sir William Shelley, and Anne wife of Sir Thomas Wotton; Leonard Danett and his wife Christine conveyed a third part to Sir Anthony Cooke, Philip's grandson, in 1564<sup>43</sup> and Thomas Wotton released his interest to Cooke in the same year.<sup>44</sup> A rent out of the manor, amounting in 1547 to £20 was granted to Richard and Joan Cooke, with reversion to Thomas Burnaby of Watford (Northants.) and contingent remainder to his brother Eustace;<sup>45</sup> this rent was transferred in 1547 by John Bartylmewe and Joan his wife (probably a Burnaby, the warranty being against her heirs) to William Byall.<sup>46</sup>

Anthony Cooke, Sir Anthony's grandson, passed the manor to Richard Fennys of Broughton (Oxon.) in 1584,<sup>47</sup> and the latter and his wife Constance conveyed it two years later to Thomas Morgan, when the appurtenances included two mills.<sup>48</sup> Morgan died seised of the manor in 1603, his heir being his brother Anthony; in 1599 Thomas had settled it in turn on his wife Mary, Anthony, and Anthony's daughter Bridget on her marriage to Anthony Morgan of Llanfihangel Llantarnam (Mon.), in tail male, with contingent remainders to various members of the family.<sup>49</sup> Thomas Morgan, son of Bridget and Anthony, was dealing with the manor in 1616 and in 1622,<sup>50</sup> and in 1634–5 was cited for recusancy;<sup>51</sup> he was killed at the first battle of Newbury (1643).<sup>52</sup> After this the manor passed by the marriage of Morgan's surviving daughter and heiress Jane to Sir John Preston of Furness (Lancs.), whose nephew and successor Sir Thomas was dealing with it in 1665.<sup>53</sup> The Preston family estates were divided after Sir Thomas's death (1709) between his daughters Mary and Anne, Wappenbury being allotted to the latter, who was married to Hugh, 3rd Baron Clifford of Chudleigh,<sup>54</sup> in whose family the manorial rights have since remained.<sup>55</sup>



CLIFFORD OF CHUDLEIGH.  
Cheeky or and Azure a  
fesse azure.

<sup>18</sup> *Cal. Fine R.* vi, 151, 264.

<sup>19</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. 12 Hen. IV, 35.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.* 12 Hen. VI, 43.

<sup>21</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xi), 190.

<sup>22</sup> *Red. Bk. of Exch.* (Rolls Ser.), 736.

<sup>23</sup> *Rot. Litt. Claus.* (Rec. Com.), 311.

<sup>24</sup> *Book of Fees*, 509.

<sup>25</sup> *F.C.H. Surv.* vii, 229.

<sup>26</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ix, 219 (p. 208); x, 46 (p. 51).

<sup>27</sup> *Lay Subs. R.* (Dugd. Soc.), 35.

<sup>28</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xv), 1391.

<sup>29</sup> *Feudal Aids*, v, 177.

<sup>30</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ix, 539.

<sup>31</sup> *Cal. Fine R.* vi, 126. <sup>32</sup> *Ibid.* 264.

<sup>33</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* xi, 550. A John de Wassingle, of Wood Walton (Hunts.), was among the witnesses.

<sup>34</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xviii), 2227.

<sup>35</sup> *F.C.H. Surv.* vii, 230.

<sup>36</sup> *Cal. Close*, 1419–22, p. 57.

<sup>37</sup> Dugd. 294. <sup>38</sup> *Ibid.* 278.

<sup>39</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII*, i, 136.

<sup>40</sup> *Close 4 Hen. VIII*, 4.

<sup>41</sup> Add. Chart. 42391.

<sup>42</sup> Hasted, *Kent*, 2nd ed. (1797), ii, 102.

<sup>43</sup> *Feet of F.* East. 6 Eliz. (cal.).

<sup>44</sup> Dugd. 294.

<sup>45</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), lxi, 17. The connexion between the Cookes and the Burnabys is not known; the reversion and remainder were in accordance with an indenture (1512) between the Burnabys and Thomas Parpoynt, clothworker of London.

<sup>46</sup> *Feet of F.* Warw. Hil. 38 Hen. VIII.

<sup>47</sup> *Ibid.* Trin. 26 Eliz. i; *Recov. R.* Trin.

26 Eliz. ro. 33.

<sup>48</sup> *Feet of F.* Warw. Hil. 26 Eliz.

<sup>49</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), clxxvi, 84.

<sup>50</sup> Dugdale (p. 297) asserts that this elaborate

settlement was to preserve his estates in

possession of a bearer of the name Morgan.

The farm, of 100 acres 'of very good land',

called The Park, which Lord Clifford sold to

Robert Viner c. 1800, was said to have been

inclosed as a park by the Morgans:

Add. MS. 29264, fol. 210.

<sup>51</sup> *Feet of F.* Div. Cos. Trin. 14 Jas. I;

*Recov. R.* Mich. 22 Jas. I, ro. 78.

<sup>52</sup> *Pert. to Chas.* I, pt. 11.

<sup>53</sup> Baker, *Northants.* i, 184.

<sup>54</sup> *Recov. R.* Trin. 17 Chas. II, ro. 36.

<sup>55</sup> Baker, loc. cit.

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

The hamlet of *EATHORPE* is mentioned in 1428 as being, with Wappenbury, formerly held by Thomas Wake of Liddell.<sup>56</sup> From the latter half of the 16th century it is often described as a manor,<sup>57</sup> which has always descended with Wappenbury. In 1612 John Lapworth died seised of a messuage and lands in Eathorpe held of Thomas Morgan's manor of Wappenbury, which he bequeathed to his wife Isabel and younger son Henry in tail.<sup>58</sup>

A manor of Eathorpe, so-called, was in the hands of Sir Fulwar Skipwith in 1716 and of Sir Thomas Skipwith, bart., until his death in 1790, and was then held by his widow<sup>59</sup>. On her death in 1832 it passed to Sir Guy Skipwith, bart., who was lord in 1850.<sup>60</sup>

The church of *ST. JOHN THE CHURCH BAPTIST* stands on a slight mound in the middle of a small churchyard, with a farmhouse on the west and Wappenbury Hall, which has been entirely rebuilt, to the east. The church was built in the 13th century and then consisted of chancel and nave. Early in the 14th century a west tower was built on the south side of the nave, together with a south aisle and porch. The nave and south aisle were completely 'restored' c. 1825<sup>61</sup> but were pulled down in 1886 and rebuilt in the character of 14th-century work, and at the same time a south porch and transept were added and the whole church re-roofed.

The east wall of the chancel has been almost entirely refaced and the string-course, plinth, and the coping and cross finial of the gable renewed. It has three lancet windows with the jambs and sills restored.<sup>62</sup> Over these windows there is a continuous hood-moulding round each arch with head-stops at the two ends. The north side is built of red sandstone rubble patched with small limestone rubble. It has three lancet windows of one play, a moulded string-course at sill level and a plinth of one play. The south side is similar but has a re-set doorway at the west end with a trefoil head of two plays,<sup>63</sup> the string-course at sill level carried over it as a pointed arch. The walls of the south aisle, transept and porch are modern, built of a reddish sandstone in squared and coursed masonry. The transept has a gable with a chimney as a finial and is lighted by a two-light tracery window with a hood-moulding on the south, and a single trefoil-headed light on the east. Between the transept and the porch the aisle is lighted by three lancets placed close together. The porch has angle buttresses and a pointed entrance arch and an ogee-headed window on either side, that on the west being an old one re-used. Below the wall-plate some old moulded stones have been used as a cornice. The south door has a pointed arch and mouldings of a 13th-century character. The north side of the nave has two single trefoil lights with pointed arches and between them a plain two-light tracery window. West of these is a doorway, projected slightly from the wall as a gable with low buttresses to give the appearance of a porch. The doorway has a moulded trefoil head and a pointed arch formed by a hood-moulding.

The tower, which is divided by string-courses into three stages, is built of red sandstone ashlar, supported

by diagonal buttresses at each corner, those on the east side coming down, the one into the nave, the other into the south porch. At the base of the tower is a moulded plinth, restored, but with some remains of the original. It has an embattled parapet, with a small turret corbelled out at the south-west angle, probably to balance the stair turret. Below the parapet at each corner are grotesque gargoyles. At the south-east angle there is a turret corbelled out for the spiral tower staircase, the corbel carved with a grotesque figure of a man lying on his chest, his chin supported on his hands. The stair is lit by a chamfered loop-light in the lower stage. The belfry windows on the north, south, and west are of two trefoil lights, of two chamfered orders, with pointed arches containing pierced cusping, and a label-moulding above; that on the east side has three trefoil lights, with a rather flat four-centred arch and a label-moulding. Beneath the window in the second stage is a chamfered window with a trefoil head under a square label-moulding, and near the south-east angle there is a similar light. On the south side of the lower stage is a window of two trefoil lights set in deep splayed reveals with a pointed arch, cusped piercing, and a label-moulding, with head-stops. On the east face above the modern aisle roof is the line of the low-pitched earlier roof.

The chancel (30 ft. 10 in. by 16 ft.) has a modern tiled floor, three steps from the nave, two to the altar rails, and two to the modern altar, and a modern trussed rafter roof. The three east lancet windows have trefoil rear-arches, springing from capitals, and above them a label-moulding with head-stops. The three lancet windows in each side wall have deep splayed recesses with segmental-pointed arches, and above them trefoil heads. At sill level there is a moulded string-course, which is carried over the slightly cambered rear-arch of the south door as a hood-moulding. Between the two east windows on the south side is a late-13th-century piscina, the head trefoiled in two delicately moulded orders springing from two shafts in each jamb, with moulded capitals and bases; the bowl is modern. The recess is unusually wide for a piscina, being 4 ft. 6 in. across.

The nave (43 ft. 9 in. by 20 ft.) is entirely modern, with a tile and wood-block floor and a roof match-boarded in the form of a wagon vault. The north door has a segmental rear-arch with hood-mouldings stopped on scrolls. All the windows have shouldered rear arches. The chancel arch of two orders is also modern, and on the south side of it is a modern moulded niche with a bracket. The nave arcade is in three bays in line with the tower arch, which forms a fourth; the east bay opens into the modern transept, used as a vestry and organ chamber. The arches are pointed, in two splayed orders springing from octagonal pillars with moulded capitals, the splayed bases being modern. The stone-work of the capitals and pillars has been re-dressed. The pointed tower arch is lofty and of two splayed orders supported on half-octagon responds with moulded capitals and bases. On either side of the arch are corbels carved like animals' heads, now used to support the modern roof. As the modern

ibid. Mich. 20 Geo. III. r. 528; ibid. Trin. 51 Geo. III. r. 234; Feet of F. Trin. 56 Geo. III.; White, *Directory Warw.* (1850), p. 703.

<sup>56</sup> *Feudal Aids*, v. 194.

<sup>57</sup> Feet of F. Trin. 26 Eliz.; Hil. 28 Eliz.; Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), clxxxi, 84.

<sup>58</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccxcv, 6.  
<sup>59</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations, Shire Hall, Warwick.

<sup>60</sup> White, *Directory of Warw.* (1850).

<sup>61</sup> Add. MS. 29264, fol. 210: two crude drawings of the church before restoration and in 1830.

<sup>62</sup> In 1830 the upper half of each lancet was bricked up, and the lower half of the central one blocked outside by a monument to Thomas Viner, 1709: ibid. 211.

<sup>63</sup> West of the door there was in 1830 a rectangular, low-side window: ibid. 210.

south aisle (20 ft. 6 in. by 9 ft. 2 in.) is lower than the original the upper part of the arch to the tower has been blocked and a modern depressed four-centred arch inserted, springing from the original moulded capitals; that on the south is carved with the face of an old man with a beard. Traces of the earlier arch can be seen under the apex of the modern lean-to roof. The windows have stop-chamfered recesses with flat oak lintels.

The tower (9 ft. 6 in. by 9 ft. 6 in.) has a modern tiled floor with three steps down into the aisle. Placed on the top step is a modern plain tapered circular stone font. The window in the south wall has a splayed recess with a stop-chamfered rear-arch. In the south-east corner there is a narrow doorway to the tower staircase, with a four-centred head. Standing against the west wall are two 13th-century coffin lids, one with a foliated cross, and the other, belonging to a child, with a plain cross; above are several 18th- and 19th-century mural tablets. On the north side is an old plain wooden chest of uncertain date, bound with iron straps.

There are three bells:<sup>64</sup> (1) by Brian Eldridge, 1657; (2) by Newcombe, c. 1580; (3) by Hugh Watts, 1629.

The registers start in 1753.

In the churchyard opposite the south door to the chancel is the square base, on three octagonal steps, of a 14th-century cross. The angles of the base are carved with a male head and shoulders in deep relief, three of them, however, are badly mutilated. Let into the base is a short length of square-moulded shaft.

Two parts of the tithes and a mill *ADFOVSON* were granted by Geoffrey de Wirce to the abbey of St. Nicolas, Angers,<sup>65</sup> whose cell of Monks Kirby made the first recorded presentation in 1283.<sup>66</sup> During most of the 14th century the patronage was with the king, owing to the war with France.<sup>67</sup> At the end of that century the en-

dowments of Monks Kirby were transferred to the Carthusian priory of Axholme (Lincs.)<sup>68</sup> which in 1399 was licensed to transfer Wappenbury church to the abbey of Sulby (Northants.), the latter being allowed to appropriate it.<sup>69</sup> This transaction, however, was not actually carried out till 1453-4, when the abbot and convent of Sulby granted letters of attorney to Richard Aleynson and Thomas Layton to act on their behalf.<sup>70</sup> After the Dissolution the first presentation (1547) was made by Edward Sanders on the grant of Sulby abbey; in 1582 the Crown presented and in 1586 Thomas Wayse, or Wace, senior and junior,<sup>71</sup> members of a family that at that time held the rectory.<sup>72</sup> By 1745<sup>73</sup> the patronage had come to the Lords Clifford, who held the manor, and before 1915 it was transferred to the Bishop.<sup>74</sup> The living was united with Weston-under-Wetherley in 1891.<sup>75</sup>

The value of the church in 1291 was £10,<sup>76</sup> and that of the vicarage in 1535 £8,<sup>77</sup> the rectory then being worth £5,<sup>78</sup> out of which 16s. 4d. was payable to the Bishop of 'Chester' (i.e. Lichfield).<sup>79</sup>

Mary Turner. This parish participates in the Charity of Mary Turner and receives 6s. 8d. each year, to be applied for the relief of the poor impotent and most needy people dwelling in this parish. For particulars of the charity see under parish of Marton.

Town Ground. It is not known with certainty how the land, containing 4 a. 2 r. 23 p. situate in Eathorpe and known as the Town Ground, and formerly constituting the endowment of this charity, was acquired. The land was sold in 1932 and the proceeds of sale invested. The charity is now regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 24 June 1932, which appoints a body of trustees to administer the charity and provides for the application of the income, amounting to £7 11s. 8d., for the benefit of the poor of the parish.

## WESTON-UNDER-WETHERLEY

Acreage: 1,361.

Population: 1911, 265; 1921, 254; 1931, 195.

Weston-under-Wetherley parish is on the right bank of the River Leam, 3½ miles north-east of Leamington Spa. The northern part of the parish extends over the watershed (at a level of rather over 300 ft.) into the valley of the Avon, and is partly covered by the large Waverley (formerly Wethele) Wood, which extends into Stoneleigh and gives Weston its distinguishing name. The village, in which the cottages are mostly of timber-framing with red brick infilling, straggles along the Leamington-Rugby road for over half a mile; this road makes two right-angled bends at the east end of the village to align with a cross-country road whose continuity from the Northampton-Warwick road at Napton, through Stockton, Long Itchington, Snowford, Hunningham, Weston, and Baginton towards Coventry suggests that it was at one time of considerable impor-

tance. This latter road crosses the Leam by a bridge, for whose non-repair in 1636 the inhabitants of Weston were presented at Quarter Sessions, but on their producing an 'ancient indenture' it was allowed to be a responsibility of the hundred.<sup>1</sup> An unspecified amount of common fields was inclosed by Act of Parliament in 1777.<sup>2</sup>

The Warwickshire Weston Colony occupies buildings erected in 1856 as a reformatory, the land being given and the foundation stone laid by Lord Leigh; it has been an institution for mental defectives since 1929.<sup>3</sup>

In the 1860's there were only about 30 cottages in the village, half at least having only one bedroom. Many labourers on the farms here came from Cubbington; 'they are very restless and independent because I' (Mr. F. Wells, a farmer of 260 acres) 'have no cottages for them.' At this date there was no

<sup>64</sup> Tilley and Walters, *Church Bells of Warwick*, 200.

<sup>65</sup> Dugdale, *Mon. Angl.* vi, 996.

<sup>66</sup> Dugd. 295.

<sup>67</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1324-7, p. 151; 1338-40.

p. 243, &c.

<sup>68</sup> *P.C.H. Warwick*, ii, 131.

<sup>69</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1396-9, pp. 581, 593.

<sup>70</sup> Madox, *Formulare*, cccxi; Dugd. 295.

<sup>71</sup> Dugd. 295.

<sup>72</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 8, and East. 20 Jas. I.

<sup>73</sup> *Clergyman's Intelligencer*, 48.

<sup>74</sup> Many of the Cliffords being Roman Catholics, presentations were made by outside bodies, e.g. in 1806 by the Bishop, and in 1813 by the University of Oxford (P.R.O. Inst. Bks.).

<sup>75</sup> Kelly, *Directory Warwick*, (1900).

<sup>76</sup> *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 241.

<sup>77</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 63.

<sup>78</sup> *Ibid.* iv, 300.

<sup>79</sup> *Ibid.* 301.

<sup>1</sup> *Warwic. Co. Records*, i, 245; iii, p. xlii.

<sup>2</sup> Slater, *Engl. Peasantry and Encl.* 303. The award was dated 10 May 1779 (Com. Pleas Recov. R. East. 20 Geo. III, m. 68).

<sup>3</sup> Information from Medical Superintendent; Kelly, *Directory Warwick*.

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

school here, the children going to Cubbington or Hunningham.<sup>4</sup>

This vill comprised three holdings in *MANORS* 1086; Robert, Count of Meulan, held 3 hides less 1 virgate, his tenant being one Robert, and his predecessor Ulf.<sup>5</sup> Robert also held 1½ virgates of Turchil of Warwick, which Ulwi had held freely, but this was waste and brought in nothing.<sup>6</sup> William fitz Corbucion had an estate of 2½ virgates, his tenant being Johais; Sawold had held this before the Conquest.<sup>7</sup>

The overlordship passed through the Count of Meulan's descendants to the earldom of Leicester, and on the division of the estates of that earldom at the beginning of the 13th century, to that of Winchester, Weston counting with Npton as two fees of the latter earldom in 1235,<sup>8</sup> and similarly at the death of the last Quency earl in 1264,<sup>9</sup> after which it formed part of the share of his daughter Elizabeth, wife of Alexander Comyn, Earl of Buchan. Their son John was in 1292 overlord of 2 carucates in Weston, for which suit of court of the honor of Winchester was done at Leicester every three weeks.<sup>10</sup> John Comyn and his cousin William de Ferrers in 1285 claimed view of frankpledge in Weston and other Warwickshire vills, as having been exercised when the estates of the earldom of Leicester were undivided.<sup>11</sup> Sir Henry de Beaumont, John Comyn's grandson, held the two fees in 1369,<sup>12</sup> and they continued with his family.<sup>13</sup>

The tenants of the manor were the de Npton family. In 1208 Roger son of William acknowledged the right of John Stertewey and Parnell de Npton and Adam her son in half a virgate of land, of which they granted him 5 acres which John held, at a rent of a knife or one penny.<sup>14</sup> In 1279 the Npton holding amounted to 3½ yardlands in demesne and a similar amount let out to tenants, and there were 10 freeholders with 2 cottages and 3½ yardlands.<sup>15</sup> In 1316 Robert de Npton and Lucy his wife received from Adam Spigurnel 2 messuages, a toft, a mill, and 2 virgates of land in Weston,<sup>16</sup> and five years later he and his heirs were granted free warren.<sup>17</sup> He, or a namesake, granted certain lands, services, and rents in Weston and Npton to William de Cotes, and in 1348 Richard de Npton, rector of Whelton, released all his right in these to John de Cotes, William's son.<sup>18</sup> The Nptons were still holding Weston in 1400, when John and his wife Alice made a settlement of the manor,<sup>19</sup> but in 1414 there was a dispute between William and Thomas Shuckburgh, Simon Cook, and Thomas Chyldes, claiming to have been

enfeoffed of the manor of Weston by William de Npton, who had been enfeoffed by John de Npton, and John Knyghthe, claiming a grant direct from John de Npton.<sup>20</sup> The result of the suit is not known, and the descent of the manor becomes obscure for more than a century. John Weston, serjeant-at-law, was returned as holding half a knight's fee, formerly held by Adam de Npton, in 1428,<sup>21</sup> and in 1449 Nicholas Marcell of Henley-in-Arden made a settlement of the manor and its appurtenances.<sup>22</sup> John son of Thomas Cotes, possibly a descendant of the William and John de Cotes mentioned above, and Joyce his wife granted away much property, though not described as a manor, in Weston and Hunningham in 1483 and 1491.<sup>23</sup>

Another large property, probably the main manor since it was held with other property in Npton, was recovered by Edward Metley in the right of his wife Margaret in 1402-3.<sup>24</sup> This seems to have descended through another Margaret, perhaps Edward's granddaughter, to John Hugford (died 1485), and was afterwards acquired by Edward Belknap, of whom John Smyth in 1501 held 6 messuages and 10 virgates in Weston.<sup>25</sup> Belknap bequeathed Weston to his wife Alice, and, he being without issue, the manor descended to his nephew John Shelley (died 1550-1).<sup>26</sup> Very soon afterwards it was in possession of Sir Thomas Newnham, who in 1554 with his wife Mary conveyed it to the Crown;<sup>27</sup> three years later it was regranted in moieties to Sir Edward Saunders and Francis Morgan.<sup>28</sup> Sir Anthony Cooke, Thomas Wootton, and Leonard Dannett, the descendants of the co-heirs of Sir Edward Belknap, released their interest in Weston to Saunders in 1560.<sup>29</sup> By the marriage of Sir Edward's daughter and heiress to Thomas Morgan, Francis's son,<sup>30</sup> the manor was reunited and was held by the same family as Wappenbury (q.v.), with which it has since descended.<sup>31</sup>

The 2½ virgates of William fitz Corbucion were in 1279 held by Sylvestre de Honygham of Henry de Bereford, who held of John de Hastings. This holding was divided in equal quantities between 3 servile and 2 free tenants.<sup>32</sup> Turchil's 1½ virgates were at the same date occupied by 2 freeholders, tenants of John de Wilewby, between whom and the Earl of Warwick as overlord were Robert de Compton and Simon Bassett.<sup>33</sup> By 1315 these estates seem to have become united, John de Hastings then holding half a fee of the Earl of Warwick in Barcheston and Weston.<sup>34</sup> In 1401 there was again a half-fee of the Earl of Warwick in these two places,<sup>35</sup> but this fief is not subsequently recorded. It may be identical with a 'manor' which Richard Knightley recovered against John Wode in 1454-5,<sup>36</sup> and from which his grandson Thomas granted a sum of 96s. 2d. yearly for four years from 1489 to Sir Edmund Cornewall, who then held this manor of the prior of Maxstoke.<sup>37</sup>



NPTON. *Argent a fesse azure with three scallops argent thereon.*

<sup>4</sup> Reports from Commissioners, 1868-9, xxi, Appx. pt. ii, p. 236.

<sup>5</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* i, 316.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.* 323. <sup>7</sup> *Ibid.* 333.

<sup>8</sup> *Bk. of Fees*, 509.

<sup>9</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* i, 776 (p. 256).

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.* iii, 45.

<sup>11</sup> *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 784.

<sup>12</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* xii, 321 (p. 295).

<sup>13</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 20 Ric. II, 14; *ibid.*

<sup>14</sup> *Hen. V*, 45.

<sup>15</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xi), 175.

<sup>16</sup> *Dugd.* 296.

<sup>17</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xv), 1439.

<sup>18</sup> *Cal. Chart.* R. iii, 437.

<sup>19</sup> *Cal. Close*, 1346-9, p. 523.

<sup>20</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xviii), 2385.

<sup>21</sup> *Wm. Salt Soc.* xvii, 12.

<sup>22</sup> *Feudal Aids*, v, 195.

<sup>23</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xviii), 2640.

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid.* 2723, 2735.

<sup>25</sup> *Dugd.* 297, citing *Assize R.* 4 Hen. IV,

ro. 42.

<sup>26</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII*, ii, 520.

<sup>27</sup> *Dugd.* 297.

<sup>28</sup> *Feet of F. Div. Cos. Hil. 1 & 2 Ph &*

*Mary.* <sup>29</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1557-8, p. 267.

<sup>30</sup> *Feet of F. Warw. Hil. 2 Eliz.*

<sup>31</sup> *Dugd.* 297; *Feet of F. Div. Cos. Trin.*

<sup>32</sup> *Jas. I.*

<sup>33</sup> See also *Feet of F. Div. Cos. Mich.*

<sup>34</sup> *Chas. I; Recov. R. Hil. 13 Chas. I,*

*ro. 25.*

<sup>35</sup> *Dugd.* 296.

<sup>36</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m. v*, 615 (p. 404).

<sup>37</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 2 Hen. IV, 58.

<sup>38</sup> *Dugd.* 297, citing *Plea R.* 33 Hen. VI,

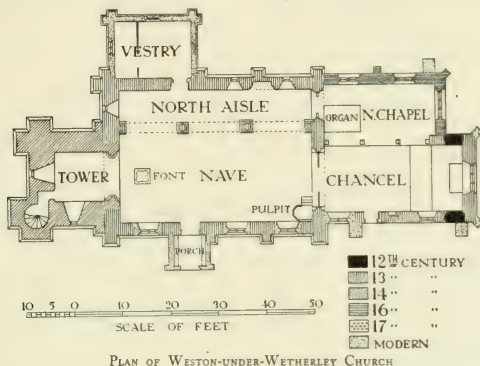
*fo. 424.*

<sup>39</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII*, i, 545.



The church of *ST. MICHAEL* lies on the north side of the Leamington-Rugby road,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles north-east of Leamington. It stands on a bank above the road and has a small inclosed churchyard. The church consists of chancel, north chapel, nave, north aisle, west tower, vestry, and south porch. There is evidence of a 12th-century church in the north and south walls of the chancel, consisting of the eastern halves of two semicircular-headed blocked windows. Early in the 13th century the church was almost entirely rebuilt; the tower was built early in the 14th century, except the top stage, added late in the 14th century; a north chapel was built in the 16th century, and in modern times a vestry and south porch.

There are three windows; the one to the west is of early-14th-century date, the other two, of somewhat similar design, are modern. The original has two trefoil lights with moulded tracery, pointed arch, and hood-moulding with mask stops. The two modern windows have plain tracery of two splayed orders. The doorway has a pointed arch with a wave-moulding continued down the jambs, its hood-moulding has been hacked away and the arch restored. In front of the door is a modern porch of red sandstone, with two stone seats, which has a tiled roof. The north aisle wall has three buttresses, with angle buttresses at the west end, finished with 13th-century gabled heads, and a plinth of two splays which continues round the buttresses. A modern vestry has been built at the western end embracing the



PLAN OF WESTON-UNDER-WETHERLEY CHURCH

The church is built of red sandstone ashlar and the roofs covered with tiles finishing on a coved eaves-course. There is a roof-line on the tower, 3 ft. above the present modern roof, which has a slightly lower pitch; it was re-roofed in 1867. The east gable wall of the chancel has been entirely refaced with a light-coloured sandstone, the upper part rebuilt and angle buttresses added. The window, dating from the 13th century, is of three pointed lights with plain tracery and pointed arch without a label. On the south side is a 13th-century window of two pointed lights, having a pointed arch and hood-moulding stopped on grotesque heads; and to the west a two-light square-headed window, probably inserted in the 17th century. Between them is a narrow pointed doorway with a hollow-splayed edge. This wall has been refaced and two brick buttresses added. A 16th-century chapel has been built against the north wall in a light-coloured sandstone with a low-pitched gable to the east wall, which has been rebuilt with modern brickwork. The east window has three cinquefoil lights with a four-centred arch, and on the north side are two two-light cinquefoil windows with square heads, all contemporary with the chapel. At the north-east corner is an angle buttress; there is a small central one, and a modern brick one at each end.

The south wall of the nave has a plinth of two splays, a coved eaves-course, and four buttresses in two weathered stages, that at the west end having a gabled

original north door. It has a low-pitched gable on the north side and is lighted by two windows of two cinquefoil lights with square heads on the north and west. The aisle is lighted by three small lancet windows, two in the north wall and one in the west, and above these the wall was raised in the latter part of the 14th century in a lighter-coloured sandstone, a low-pitched lead-covered roof substituted for the original, which had a steep pitch, and two windows of two trefoil lights with plain tracery and four-centred heads provided. In the west wall there is a straight joint showing the pitch of the original aisle roof.

The tower is in three stages undivided by string-courses, but the upper two are diminished from the lower by splayed offsets. It is finished by an embattled parapet with crocketed pinnacles at each corner. The buttresses rise to the coved string-course at the base of the parapet; those on the west side are of massive character, two at each corner, those to the south enclosing the tower staircase. The buttress to the north is diminished in width by three splayed offsets; the one to the south is wider and diminished at the lower stage only; the internal angles are splayed, finishing at the top as an octagonal turret. These splays have recessed foliated stops at their bases to allow the tower plinth to continue. The tower has single lancet windows in each of the west and south walls of the lowest stage, and in the second stage a cross-shaped loop light. On the east side of the belfry is a window of three trefoil lights with

plain tracery under a four-centred arch; and there is a similar one of two lights in each of the other faces. On the south side in the second stage is a small trefoiled light, and a loop-light with a pointed head in the lowest stage of the buttress.

The chancel (31 ft. by 14 ft.) has a modern collar-beam roof, plastered between the rafters. Most of the north wall has been demolished and the roof is now carried on a modern traceried timber screen of three arched bays with stout square posts. The south wall and the remains of the north wall are built of roughly coursed red sandstone rubble, and each has half a blocked 12th-century window with semicircular head directly opposite each other. The south wall has been much repaired with both rubble and ashlar masonry. On the south side the tracery window recess has played reveals with a stop-chamfered pointed arch; the narrow door has square jambs with a flat oak lintel; and the later window played reveals with a flat oak lintel. Between this and the doorway is a late-14th-century piscina with a four-centred head, having chamfered edges finished on played stops, and a quatrefoil basin, while farther east is another piscina in a very mutilated condition, which appears to have been enriched by flanking pillars. The east window recess has a chamfered pointed arch and stop-chamfered reveals, and from its springing level the gable wall is reduced in thickness 12 in. There are two steps to the altar space paved with black and white marble, the rest of the chancel being paved with stone. The altar table and rails are modern.

The north chapel (23 ft. by 11 ft.) has a roof similar to that of the chancel and has a floor of stone paving. All the window recesses have flat moulded heads and jambs stopping on played sills. On the east wall is a marble monument,<sup>38</sup> dated 1573, to Sir Edward Saunders and Agnes (Hussey), his (second) wife; it is in three diminishing tiers, the lower one containing a Latin inscription, flanked with the figures of a man and woman, each kneeling at a prie-dieu; above this is a group of figures representing the Resurrection, and the upper tier has a representation of the Ascension. There are six shields of Saunders and alliances, all named. Also on this wall is a stone slab set in a moulded frame with a brass inscription in the centre and matrices for small figures at each corner, to Margery (first) wife of Sir Edward Saunders, died 1563; above the inscription are four coats: (1) Saunders, (2) Englefield, (3) Throckmorton, (4) Danvers. On the north wall is a well-designed decorated mural tablet of alabaster to Margaret and Mary Morgan, died 1584; above are two identical coats placed side by side. The western end of the chapel is occupied by the organ.

The nave (40 ft. by 18 ft. 6 in.) has a modern collar-beam roof with curved brackets and is plastered between the rafters. The south door recess has a pointed segmental stop-chamfered arch, the recess being higher than the external pointed arch, and the windows have played recesses with stop-chamfered pointed arches. The chancel arch, which dates from the 13th century, is pointed, of two played orders resting on responds of similar section with very short moulded capitals and square bases. The splay of the outer order is wider than that of the responds, the change being made with a played stop at springing level. The arcade has three bays with pointed arches of two played orders supported upon octagonal pillars and responds with

moulded capitals and bases. The capitals of the responds repeat the upper moulding of the capitals only, and the springers are 6 in. lower than on the pillars. This arcade dates from the early 13th century; the mouldings are typical of the period and differ slightly in detail. The tower arch is a segmental pointed arch of two orders with wave-mouldings on the nave side and splays on the other, the outer order terminating on plain splays and the inner resting on half-octagon responds without capitals, but with moulded bases on a square plinth. The nave and north aisle are paved with modern red tiles.

The north aisle (40 ft. by 6 ft. 6 in.) has a low-pitched roof with beaded-edge beams and purlins, probably 16th-century, but the other members of the roof are modern. At the east end there is the pointed arch and jambs of a late-13th-century tracery window of two moulded orders, with pieces of tracery attached, which was converted into an entrance to the north chapel, the wall below the sill being removed and replaced with a moulded oak screen rebated for a half-door with a four-centred arch and carved spandrels, all contemporary with the chapel. The three lancet windows have wide played recesses with pointed stop-chamfered arches and the later windows, above, slightly played recesses with four-centred arches. Below the two lancet windows is an empty tomb recess with a wide segmental pointed arch richly moulded, and has a label moulding with returned ends. The outer moulding continues down the jambs and the inner order is supported on short engaged shafts with moulded capitals and bases. The north doorway now leads into a modern vestry; it has a pointed arch with a hollow splay and played hood-moulding outside, but the internal arch has been reduced in width by building up the west splay to allow for a window when the north wall was raised; it no longer coincides with the external arch. In the vestry (14 ft. 6 in. by 12 ft.) there is an early-17th-century oak chest on legs formed by trefoil cusps at the ends.

The tower (10 ft. 8 in. by 10 ft. 3 in.) windows have deep played recesses with segmental pointed arches with stopped hollow splays, and the doorway to the tower staircase has a shouldered head and hollow-played jambs. The cross-shaped loop-light in the second stage has a very wide played recess and the doorway to the ringing-chamber a shouldered arch. The belfry floor rests on an offset and the window heads are as on the outside. The roof is a low-pitched pyramid covered with tiles.

The church is fitted with varnished benches re-using a number of late-16th-century traceried panels in the bench ends; other panels have been used in the chancel screen. The font, standing at the west end of the nave, is of unusual form and has eight sides, those towards the cardinal points being concave and the others plain. At the bottom of the latter there are head corbels on three sides; the fourth is missing. The stem has the same shape as the basin and its sides die out on a deep splay to a low square pedestal. Internally the basin, which is lined with lead, follows the shape of the outside and is curved at the bottom. It probably dates from the early 14th century, one of the head corbels being of a knight with the *coiffe de mailles*. It has a modern oak cover and step. The pulpit placed on the south side of the chancel arch is modern.

On the south wall of the chancel are set two brass

<sup>38</sup> Described and figured in *Birm. Arch. Soc. Trans.* lvii, 105-6.

inscriptions: (i) Joyce Tomer, died 1566; (ii) Anne, wife of Gerard Danet and daughter and co-heir of John Hugford, died 1497.<sup>39</sup>

The communion plate includes a silver-gilt chalice, of which the hall-mark is illegible.

There are four bells:<sup>40</sup> the 1st and 4th are by Hugh Watts, dated respectively 1624 and 1592; the 2nd and 3rd by Geoffrey Giles, 1583, 1585, the latter bearing the coats of arms of Saunders and Morgan.

The registers begin for baptisms in 1660, for burials 1695, and for marriages 1700.<sup>41</sup>

The church was an early endowment of Arbury Priory, and was confirmed to that foundation by Thomas (Arundel), Archbishop of Canterbury in 1401.<sup>42</sup> Its value in 1291, when it was stated to be appropriated to Arbury, was £5,<sup>43</sup> and in 1535 the vicarage was worth £5 9s., of which almost half (53s. 4d.) was a pension from Arbury towards the vicar's stipend;<sup>44</sup> at which time the rectory was farmed at £5 6s. 8d.<sup>45</sup> After the Dissolution the advowson and rectory were granted, among the priory estates, to Charles, Duke of Suffolk,

who in December 1542 sold them to Sir Edward Wootton, Mary widow of Edward Danett, and Anthony Cooke;<sup>46</sup> they subsequently descended with the manor;<sup>47</sup> the living is now united with that of Wappenbury.

Richard Hancox and Daniel Simson. **CHARITIES** The Returns to Parliament under Gilbert's Act record a gift of £30 in money by Richard Hancox, but at what date or by what instrument was unknown. The same Returns record a further gift of £10 by Daniel Simson by will in 1770. It is stated in the printed Parliamentary Reports of the former Commissioners for Inquiring Concerning Charities, dated in 1827, that the interest is given in bread to the poor of the parish, allowing to each parent of a family a shilling loaf and to each child a sixpenny loaf. The annual income amounts to £1 16s. 8d. The charities are administered by the churchwardens and two persons appointed by the local authority.

Church Land: upon the inclosure of the common fields of this parish in 1777 an allotment was awarded in lieu of other land, the rents of which had been immemorially applied towards the repair of the church.

## WHITNASH

Acreage: 1,239.

Population: 1911, 525; 1921, 570; 1931, 586.

Whitnash occupies a strip of country about 3 miles long but less than a mile wide, running from the Fosse Way towards the Leam valley. On the north-east it is separated from Radford Semele by a tributary of the Leam; the surface is fairly level, at an altitude of 200 to 250 ft. above sea level. The parish is partly bounded on the south-west by the road from Warwick to Harbury, and is crossed by that from Leamington Spa to Tachbrook, the village being built along a loop on the east side of this latter road. There are a few black and white timber-framed cottages, but most of the houses are of modern red brick, as the village is only about a mile from Leamington and there has been considerable ribbon development at the ends of the village street and along Tachbrook Road; for this reason the population density (nearly 50 per 100 acres) is high for a rural parish. The former G.W.R. main line runs the length of the parish, following the course of the stream above mentioned, but there is no station. There is little woodland and much of the parish is taken up with the 18-hole golf course of the Leamington and County Golf Club. Whitnash was a very late-inclosed parish, the Act, relating to 1,090 acres, not being obtained till 1847 or the award till 1851.<sup>1</sup>

Dr. Thomas Holyoake (? 1616–75), in turn soldier, medical practitioner, and priest, was rector here 1660–74,<sup>2</sup> and the family of Walter Savage Landor has held manorial rights here for over a century.

**WHITNASH**, a 2-hide vill, was in 1086 **MANORS** held by Humfrey of Hasculf Musard. The pre-Conquest tenant had been Alured.<sup>3</sup>

The overlordship of Robert Musard as to two fees in Leamington (Hastings), Whitnash, and Hasely was

recognized in 1235–6,<sup>4</sup> and as late as 1503 the manor of Whitnash was stated to have been held of him.<sup>5</sup>

Humfrey the Domesday tenant was the ancestor of the Hastang family, Whitnash again being grouped with Leamington and Hasely, but as one knight's fee only, formerly held of John Hastang, in 1428.<sup>6</sup> In the early 13th century Thomas de Charlecote seems to have been the Hastangs' tenant, his 'court' (? manor-house) being mentioned in a fine of 1221,<sup>7</sup> and his son Thomas receiving a messuage and a virgate in 1262 from Simon de Radefford and Emma his wife.<sup>8</sup> The younger Thomas was also lord of Hasely, being sometimes known as Thomas de Hasely; he held the manor of Robert de Hastang for half a knight's fee in 1279, when the demesne included 3 carucates of land and a water-mill with a great pool, and there were 6 freeholders of 3½ virgates and 19 servile tenants with 7 virgates and 6½ acres.<sup>9</sup> His son Robert de Hasely granted a messuage, carucate of land, and 117s. 5½d. rents in Whitnash to Robert de Kington and Alice his wife in 1313.<sup>10</sup> In 1373, when this estate was occupied by Margery widow of William de Kington, the reversion of it was granted by Simon le Hare of Stony Stratford (Bucks.) and his wife Maud (Kington) to James de Benyngton of Coventry.<sup>11</sup>

Robert's grandson Thomas granted the manor in 1346 to Thomas Savage of Tachbrook Mallory, in whose family it descended till another Thomas Savage granted it (1483) to Benedict Medley of Warwick;<sup>12</sup> at the death of the latter in 1503 it was worth £8



**MEDLEY.** *Sable three gemel bars argent and a chief argent with three molets sable thereon.*

<sup>39</sup> The inscriptions are given in full in Dugd. (298–9), where that of Anne Danet is shown with her effigy and three (out of four) shields.

<sup>40</sup> Tilly and Walters, *Church Bells of Warwick*, 258–9.

<sup>41</sup> *Birm. Arch. Soc. Trans.* xix, 103.

<sup>42</sup> *Anct. Deeds* (P.R.O.), B. 4295.

<sup>43</sup> *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 241.

<sup>44</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 70.

<sup>45</sup> *Ibid.* 56.

<sup>46</sup> *Add. Chart.* 40078.

<sup>47</sup> The Lords Clifford of Chudleigh being Roman Catholics, several presentations were made from outside, e.g. by the king in 1772, the University of Oxford in 1780, and by William Heapy in 1806: *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.).

<sup>1</sup> Slater, *Engl. Peasantry and Encl.* 303.

<sup>2</sup> *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

<sup>3</sup> *P.C.H. Warw.* i, 339.

<sup>4</sup> *Book of Fees*, 110.

<sup>5</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII.* ii, 603.

<sup>6</sup> *Feudal Aids*, v, 194.

<sup>7</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xi), 327.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.* 811.

<sup>9</sup> *K.R. Misc. Bks.* 15, fol. 22.

<sup>10</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xv), 1379.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.* (xviii), 2206.

<sup>12</sup> Dugd. 305.

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

and was assessed at a quarter of a fee.<sup>13</sup> His great-grandson Henry made a settlement on his marriage in 1563 with Frances, elder daughter of Clement Throckmorton of Haseley, and died in 1578, when his son Henry was 14.<sup>14</sup> Clement, son of the younger Henry Medley, sold the manor in 1604 to Robert Wale,<sup>15</sup> whose family seem to have possessed it when Dugdale was writing. The Medleys had also been lords of Tachbrook Mallory, later the property of a branch of the Wagstaffe family of Harbury, of whom Sir Combe Wagstaffe appears as vouchee in a recovery of Whitnash in 1665.<sup>16</sup> John Rouse, a beneficiary under Sir Combe's will,<sup>17</sup> his wife Mary, and Cecily Wagstaffe were dealing with the manor in the same year.<sup>18</sup> Frances, daughter of Sir Combe Wagstaffe's nephew Thomas, of Bishop's Tachbrook, brought the manor by marriage to the Bagot family, her husband Sir Edward dealing with it in 1710,<sup>19</sup> his son Sir Walter in 1758-9,<sup>20</sup> and his grandson William, 1st Lord Bagot, in 1799.<sup>21</sup> The Tachbrook estate, and also apparently manorial rights in Whitnash, were bought by the 2nd (Brooke) Earl of Warwick, who was returned as lord of the manor in 1802.<sup>22</sup>

The Frevilles of Tamworth Castle had an interest in Whitnash, which descended through Margaret, third daughter and coheir of Sir Baldwin Freville (died 1400) to her husband Sir Hugh Willoughby; it was worth 48s. at the partition of the estates in 1423.<sup>23</sup> They made a settlement of their third of this manor in tail male, with contingent remainder to Margaret's right heirs, in 1435,<sup>24</sup> and she with her second husband Sir Richard Bingham settled the entire manor (there having been a redistribution of the estates in 1452)<sup>25</sup> on themselves for their lives in 1454.<sup>26</sup> Sir Henry Willoughby, Sir Hugh's grandson, sold this manor to Benedict Medley, who already possessed the main manor, in 1499.<sup>27</sup>

Another manor appears at the end of the 16th century when John Colborne died (1600) holding a manor of Whitnash of the Crown.<sup>28</sup> His son Edmund passed it to Henry Colbourne in 1605 and the latter and Katherine Colborne, widow, to William Searle in the following year.<sup>29</sup> This may be the manor of which Robert Olney was vouchee in 1638,<sup>30</sup> and which he and his wife Elizabeth passed to William Bolton, senior and junior, in 1648.<sup>31</sup> Edward Bullocke and his wife Elizabeth (Bolton) dealt with the manor in 1666,<sup>32</sup> and their son Edward with Mary (Child) his wife in 1695.<sup>33</sup> From 1730 a manor in Whitnash was held by the Willes family,<sup>34</sup> including (1767) Sir John Willes, Chief Justice of Common Pleas, whose father

was rector of Bishop's Itchington.<sup>35</sup> Sir John's grandson Edward, who succeeded his father the Rev. Edward Willes of Newbold Comyn in 1820,<sup>36</sup> conveyed it the following year to John Campion,<sup>37</sup> who was possibly acting for Henry Eyres Landor, to whom Edward Willes sold the manor about this time.<sup>38</sup> Mr. Landor, who had previously inherited four farms in Whitnash from his mother,<sup>39</sup> who was descended from the family of Savage, formerly lords of Whitnash, held the manor at his death in 1866,<sup>40</sup> when it passed to a niece and eventually to his great nephew the Rev. R. E. H. Duke, who was said in 1932 to hold two-thirds of the manor, the other third being held by 'Miss Landor'. The Rev. R. E. H. Duke died in 1932,<sup>41</sup> his heir being his grandson Peter J. H. Duke.<sup>42</sup>

A mill, a virgate of land, and 8 acres of meadow, valued at 20s., were given to Kenilworth Priory by John Lok and William Neweman in 1338;<sup>43</sup> and rents of 117s. 10d. in Whitnash and Wellesborne to the chantry of God and St. Mary in Guy's Cliffe chapel by Richard, Earl of Warwick, in 1430.<sup>44</sup> The Knights Hospitallers had in 1279 four messuages held by them of Aitrop Hastang.<sup>45</sup> About 1200 Richard Kenteis granted to Osney Abbey (Oxon.) the lordship of two virgates in Whitnash held by Eleutherius the priest and by Margaret, this gift being confirmed by Aitrop and by Humfrey Hastang.<sup>46</sup>

The church of ST. MARGARET stands CHURCH in a very small churchyard at the northern end of the village. It consists of a chancel, nave, south aisle, west tower, vestry, and south porch. Except for the tower the church has been practically rebuilt within recent times, the chancel in 1855, the aisle in 1867, and the nave in 1880. The old church, judging from a drawing in the Aylesford Collection, consisted of chancel, aisleless nave (both probably of 13th-century origin), and the existing tower, and an 18th-century south porch. The modern walls are built of brickwork faced with ashlar, the roofs are of trussed rafters of steep pitch, covered with tiles, and the floors are tiled. The east tracery window of the chancel is of three trefoil lights with pointed arch and hood-mould, with head-stops. On the south side there are three lancet windows and a narrow doorway, probably 15th-century, with a segmental-pointed head of one spire carried down to moulded stops, restored but partly original. The north side has two lancet windows with hood-moulds, and a vestry with a window of two trefoil lights and a quatrefoil in the head. The lancet at the western end has a transom to form a low-side window, mostly restored but partly

<sup>13</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII.*, ii, 693. He was Clerk of the Signet to Henry VII Dugd. 365.

<sup>14</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cxxxvii, 98.

<sup>15</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Trin. 2, Jas. I.

<sup>16</sup> *Recov. R. Mich.* 17 Chas. II, ro. 24.

<sup>17</sup> Dugd. 498.

<sup>18</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 17 Chas. II.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.* Warw. East. 9 Anne. She married as second husband Sir Adolphus Oughton, bart., who enjoyed manorial rights in Whitnash 1715-19 and perhaps to his death in 1736. Gamekeepers' Deputations, Shire Hall, Warwick; Feet of F. Warw. East. 13 Anne; G. E. C. *Compl. Barometage*, v, 47.

<sup>20</sup> *Recov. R. Hil.* 31 Geo. II, ro. 131; Gamekeepers' Deputations.

<sup>21</sup> *Recov. R. Trin.* 39 Geo. III, ro. 25.

<sup>22</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations. G. E. C.

*Compl. Ferrage*, 2nd ed. II, 337. The Earl of Warwick was the chief landowner in Whitnash in 1936 (*Directory Warwick*).

<sup>23</sup> *Palmer, Hist. Tamworth*, 361-2.

<sup>24</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xviii), 2584.

<sup>25</sup> *Palmer, op. cit.* 366.

<sup>26</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xviii), 2655.

<sup>27</sup> Dugd. 365.

<sup>28</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cclxii, 134.

<sup>29</sup> Feet of F. Warw. East. 3 and Mich. 4 Jas. I.

<sup>30</sup> *Recov. R. Mich.* 14 Chas. I, ro. 100.

<sup>31</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Hil. 23 Chas. I.

<sup>32</sup> *Ibid.* Div. Cos. East. 18 Chas. II.

<sup>33</sup> *Ibid.* Warw. Trin. 7 Wm. III; Morant, *Essex*, ii, 118.

<sup>34</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations.

<sup>35</sup> *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

<sup>36</sup> *Foster, Alumni Oxon.*

<sup>37</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Hil. 1-2 Geo. IV.

<sup>38</sup> Add. MS. 29264, fol. 181.

<sup>39</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>40</sup> *Burke, Landed Gentry* (1937).

<sup>41</sup> Manorial List (P.R.O.). 'Miss Landor' is possibly an error for Miss Ellen Savage Landor Duke, sister of the Rev. R. E. H. Duke.

<sup>42</sup> *Burke, loc. cit.*

<sup>43</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1338-40, p. 155.

<sup>44</sup> *Ibid.* 1429-36, p. 100.

<sup>45</sup> *Exch. K.R. Misc. Bks.* 15, fol. 22 v. The Templars also apparently had some property here, as the early-12th-century endowment of Whitnash church included 5 acres of meadow 'beside the meadow of the Templars': Harl. MS. 3650, fol. 21.

<sup>46</sup> *Cartul. of Osney* (Oxf. Hist. Soc.), vi, 160-3.



original. The south aisle has a pitched roof, and a porch at the west end with doors opening into the nave and aisle lighted by two trefoil lights on the west. The entrance has a pointed moulded arch, moulded capitals and bases with red sandstone shafts. The door to the nave has a pointed arch of two continuous orders, and that to the aisle a segmental-pointed arch of two moulded orders on moulded capitals and bases with red sandstone shafts. The aisle is lighted by a tracery window of two trefoil lights, and one of three lights; there is a similar one of three lights at the east end, with a pierced trefoil in the gable. The north wall of the nave is divided by buttresses into three bays with a tracery window of two trefoil lights, a pointed arch and hood-mould in the east bay, and similar windows, but of three lights, in the other two bays. The tower is built of sandstone ashlar and dates from the latter part of the 15th century; it rises in two stages, with a moulded plinth, an embattled parapet, and diagonal buttresses, in five stages at the western angles and of three stages on the eastern corners, splayed on their west faces. The west door-way has a four-centred head of one wide splay carried down to moulded stops, and immediately above is a window, in two chamfered orders, of three trefoil lights with a pointed arch and hood-mould with head-stops; above is a clock dial. The belfry windows on all four faces have four-centred heads, of two splays, with two trefoil lights. On the south face there are two loop-lights to the tower staircase, and a small rectangular light to the ringing-chamber.

The chancel (27 ft. 10 in. by 15 ft.): the east window has a moulded rear-arch on attached shafts, moulded capitals and bases, and hood-mould with foliated stops. On the south side there is a piscina and sedilia with cinquefoil heads and hood-moulds. The lancet windows have wide-splayed jambs and pointed rear-arches. Fixed to the wall is a brass, 24 in. high, with two figures in civilian costumes of c. 1500, assigned by a modern inscription (1856), to Benedict Medley (d. 1503) and his wife.<sup>47</sup> Also on this wall is a memorial to Thomas Morse, Rector of Ashow and Whitnash, died 1784. On the north side there is a wide pointed entrance arch of two splays to the vestry and organ. Fixed on this wall is an incised brass with traces of red and black enamel, of a cleric holding a chalice with a paten, and an inscription to Richard Bennet, M.A., rector, who died 8 February 1531(2). There is also a mural tablet to Nicholas Greenhill, for 40 years rector of the parish, died 1650. Below is a small brass inscription by R. Boles who was Greenhill's successor, as follows:

This Greenhill Periwigged with snow  
Was leauild in the Spring  
This Hill the Nine and Three did know  
Was Sacred to his King

But he must Downe, although so much Divine  
Before he rise never to set but shine.  
Ri. Boles Mr. Art. 1689.

Opposite there is a similar small brass by the same hand, with a long epitaph written by Boles to himself and dated 1689.

The nave (52 ft. 5 in. by 17 ft. 8 in.) has two small dormer lights in the trussed rafter roof, and the aisle is separated from the nave by two pointed arches springing from responds and a shaft with foliated capitals. The pointed tower arch is of two continuous chamfers, and the chancel arch of two orders is supported on short coloured marble shafts, with foliated capitals, resting on carved corbels. The pulpit is on the south side of the arch and has carved trefoil panels, coloured marble shafts, and an octagonal stem of coloured marble shafts with carved capitals. The font stands to the west of the south door and is dated 1848.

The south aisle (28 ft. 9 in. by 14 ft.) has a trussed rafter roof, with a small rose window in the west gable. The windows have chamfered pointed rear-arches and the door to the porch a segmental one.

The tower (10 ft. 3 in. by 10 ft.) has a splay in the south-west angle for the staircase doorway which has a four-centred head and is fitted with its original door hung on strap hinges. The west door has a four-centred rear-arch and has an early counterboarded door. The tower is curtained off for use as a vestry.

There are two bells by Mathew Bagley, 1680, and four by J. Taylor, three of 1892 and one of 1896.<sup>48</sup>

The registers begin in 1679.

The church was originally given, *ADVOVSON* between 1121 and 1129, by Lesceline widow of Humfrey the Domesday tenant of Whitnash, to Nostell Priory (Yorks.),<sup>49</sup> but she subsequently made a new grant of it, in conjunction with her husband Ralph de Mare, including 60 acres of land and the priest's manse,<sup>50</sup> to Kenilworth Priory, this latter grant being confirmed by Aitrop Hastang, who conceded the gifts made by his men when the church was dedicated, namely '8 acres of land in one part of the vill and 10 acres in the other'.<sup>51</sup> The grant was further confirmed by Henry II.<sup>52</sup> The prior and convent held the advowson up to the Reformation, but the church was not appropriated; in 1291 it was worth £4<sup>53</sup> and in 1535 £5 9s. 8d. over and above an annual pension of 2s. to the monastery, dating back to the reign of John, and 8s. for procurations and synodals.<sup>54</sup> After the Dissolution the advowson remained with the Crown till 1587-8 when it was granted to Richard Branthwaite.<sup>55</sup> By 1615 it had been acquired by Sir Thomas Leigh.<sup>56</sup> Sir William Bromley presented in 1675 and his son William in 1690,<sup>57</sup> probably by concession of the Lords Leigh, whose representative still holds the advowson.

<sup>47</sup> No mention is made of this brass by either Dugdale or Thomas.

<sup>48</sup> Tilly and Walters, *Church Bells of Warwick*, 261-2.

<sup>49</sup> Dugdale, *Mon. Angl.* vi, 93; Rot.

*Chart.* (Rec. Com.), 215.

<sup>50</sup> Harl. MS. 3650, fol. 21.

<sup>51</sup> *Ibid.* fol. 30.

<sup>52</sup> Dugdale, *Mon. Angl.* vi, 223; *Cal.*

*Chart.* R. iii, 277.

<sup>53</sup> *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 244.

<sup>54</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 69.

<sup>55</sup> Pat. 30 Eliz. pt. 16.

<sup>56</sup> Add. MS. 36776, fol. 494.

<sup>57</sup> *Iost. Bks.* (P.R.O.)

## WIBTOFT

Acreage: 856.

Population: 1911, 59; 1921, 64; 1931, 65.

Wibtoft, one of the few Warwickshire parishes with a Danish name, is a very small parish and village on the north-east border of the county 5 miles north-west of Lutterworth. It forms a roughly equilateral triangle, the northern angle being formed by the junction of the Fosse Way and the Watling Street, though owing to boundary changes<sup>1</sup> the actual site of the Roman station of Venonae (High Cross)<sup>2</sup> is now in Sharnford (Leics.). Though the county boundary has always more or less followed the line of the Watling Street<sup>3</sup> the watershed between the Avon and the Soar, the natural division between Warwickshire and Leicestershire, runs here a little to the south-west, and Wibtoft has always been more closely associated with the latter county; it is included for ecclesiastical purposes with Claybrooke.

The village itself lies close to the Watling Street, near the source of one of the head waters of the Soar, the only stream of any consequence in the parish. The lie of the land is north-easterly, from 461 ft. at the south-west corner near Cloudeley Bush to about 100 ft. lower near the village; there is no woodland except a few small spinneys. The nearest railway station is at Ullesthorpe (Leics.), 2 miles east, on the Rugby-Leicester branch of the former L.M.S. Railway.

In 1004 Wulfric Spott bequeathed land **MANOR** at **WIBTOFT** to Athelric for life, and afterwards to his newly founded abbey of Burton in Staffordshire.<sup>4</sup> Either the amount was small or Wulfric's intention was not carried out, for Burton Abbey is not afterwards recorded as a landholder in Wibtoft. In Domesday Book the vill is entered with Willey as two estates assessed at  $\frac{1}{2}$  and 2½ hides, held respectively by Fulc and Robert of the Count of Meulan, and before 1066 held freely by Sexi.<sup>5</sup> The overlordship passed to the earls of Leicester and later of Winchester; in 1271 Wibtoft was held of Roger, Earl of Winchester, by Arnold de Bois, as four fees together with Weston-in-Arden, Bulkington, Clifton-Dunsmore, and Brownsover.<sup>6</sup> Arnold's son John in 1284-5 successfully claimed view of frankpledge, gallowes, assize of ale, and other privileges in these manors, including 'Wygtoft',<sup>7</sup> except in the part of the last-named where Roger de Quency, Earl of Winchester, had quitclaimed it to Leicester Abbey.<sup>8</sup> John de Bois's niece Maud married William la Zouche of Harringworth (Northants),<sup>9</sup> in whose family Wibtoft continued<sup>10</sup> as a member of Weston-in-Arden, the descent of which it followed (q.v.).<sup>11</sup> Edward, the last Lord Zouche (died 1625), was a spendthrift and had to sell most of the family estates, the Warwickshire por-

tions coming to Humfrey Davenport and Richard Bucknam, by whom they were divided into two moieties, being again sold to Sir Christopher Yelverton and George Purefoy respectively.<sup>12</sup> By 1730 the Yelverton portion had come to the Hayward family<sup>13</sup> of whom Richard Hayward was recorded as in possession of manorial rights at Wibtoft in 1749 and 1786.<sup>14</sup> This portion was in 1809 in the hands of the Rev. P. De Bary, a member of a family representing the Haywards.<sup>15</sup> The Purefoy half was passed by George's son Gamaliel to Anthony Stoughton;<sup>16</sup> George Stoughton (joint lord in 1759)<sup>17</sup> left a daughter Eugenia who married Col. James Money,<sup>18</sup> and their son William was lord of half the manor in 1786.<sup>19</sup> The rights are now in possession of Lord Leigh,<sup>20</sup> whose family have been principal landowners since at least 1850.<sup>21</sup>

Ralph de Arraby gave to Leicester Abbey a third of Wibtoft, comprising 7 messuages, 10 crofts, 5½ yardlands, and a mill.<sup>22</sup> In 1284-5 the abbot successfully claimed view of frankpledge and other privileges in respect thereof.<sup>23</sup> This estate was worth £4 17s. 6d. in 1477<sup>24</sup> and £5 14s. 2d. in 1535.<sup>25</sup>

Nuneaton Priory held property in Wibtoft besides the rectory and advowson, amounting at the Dissolution to a messuage, croft and 2 virgates, let to Joan Huiley, widow, worth 53s. 4d., and a cottage, 2 crofts, and 6 acres of land worth 6s.<sup>26</sup>

The church of **ST. MARY**, to the east **CHURCH** of the village, stands in a small plot of ground in which there are no burials. It is small, consisting of a chancel (15 ft. 3 in. by 13 ft.) and nave (40 ft. by 17 ft. 10 in.) with tiled roofs. In the 19th century it was rebuilt in red brick on the sandstone plinth of the earlier church<sup>27</sup> except at the west end, where the lower half of the original wall, of alternate courses of ashlar and rubble, has been retained. The arch of the original pointed doorway which was in the south wall has been rebuilt into the west wall on red brick jambs and its place taken by a window. On the west gable there is a bell-cote for a single bell. It is lighted by a window on the east and by two on both the north and south. All the windows are pointed, with wooden frames.

The interior is plastered, the floor tiled, and the western end of the nave is partitioned off as a lobby and vestry. There are no memorials and all the fittings are modern.

The chapel of Wibtoft dates back **ADVOVSON** to medieval times; it has always been served from the mother church of Claybrooke (Leics.), the advowson of which was in the

<sup>1</sup> Leicester and Warwick Order, 1934.

<sup>2</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* i, 232.

<sup>3</sup> In 1934 the county boundary was altered to run at a short distance north-east or south-west of the Watling Street itself, so as to allow the expansion of Nuneaton and Hinckley, the largest towns in the two counties near this highway, on to the side of the road opposite to their proper counties.

<sup>4</sup> *Wm. Salt Soc.* (1916), p. 14.

<sup>5</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* i, 315.

<sup>6</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* i, 776 (p. 257).

<sup>7</sup> *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 784.

<sup>8</sup> *Cal. Chart. R.* iii, 381.

<sup>9</sup> Dugd. 9.

<sup>10</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* xii, 321 (p. 295); Chan. Inq. p.m. 20 Ric. II, 14; *Feudal Aids*, v, 194; *Cal. Pat.* 1485-94, p. 230.

<sup>11</sup> See above, p. 50.

<sup>12</sup> The original sale was 'in our fathers' memory' (Dugd. 71), i.e. before the end of the 16th century.

<sup>13</sup> Dugd. 58.

<sup>14</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations, Shire Hall, Warwick.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*; Burke, *Landed Gentry*, ed. 1871.

<sup>16</sup> Dugd. 58.

<sup>17</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations.

<sup>18</sup> Burke, *Landed Gentry* (1836), iii, 618.

<sup>19</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations.

<sup>20</sup> P.R.O. Manorial List (1932).

<sup>21</sup> White, *Directory Warw.* 579.

<sup>22</sup> Nichols, *Leic.* iv, 123.

<sup>23</sup> *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 784.

<sup>24</sup> Nichols, *Leic.* i, pt. ii, Appx. p. 85.

<sup>25</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 147.

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.* iii, 76; *Monastic Estates in Warw.* (Dugd. Soc. ii), 70.

<sup>27</sup> A view of the church in the Aylesford Collection (c. 1820) shows a simple building of structurally distinct chancel and nave with no features apparently earlier than the 15th century.

hands of Nuneaton Priory up to the Reformation,<sup>28</sup> and since then held by the Crown.<sup>29</sup>

Celia Caldecott by will dated 4 March CHARITY 1868 gave £100 to the chapelwarden and overseers, the interest to be applied in

the purchase of blankets or given in money to poor persons residing in Wibtoft on the day before Christmas day or as soon after as conveniently may be. The annual income of the charity amounts to £2 13s. 8d.

## WILEY

Acreege: 815.

Population: 1911, 99; 1921, 98; 1931, 82.

Wiley is a small parish on the north-east border of the county, 3 miles west of Lutterworth. Wedge-shaped, its north-east and south boundaries are very sharply defined by the Watling Street and the Lutterworth-Hinckley road respectively, though where these two roads meet at Cross-in-Hand at the eastern corner a small 'gore' is taken in south of the Hinckley road, on which the Rectory, 'a good substantial brick building'<sup>1</sup> stands, in a rather isolated position. The parish is drained by the head waters of the Soar, which, rising in Monks Kirby just west of the Wiley boundary, flows eastwards through the northern part of the parish near Wiley Fields Farm, whose name recalls the pre-enclosure days.<sup>2</sup> Along the southern boundary the height above sea level is over 400 ft., falling to 353 ft. where the Watling Street crosses the Soar. The small village is built along a by-road joining the Watling Street to the Hinckley road, a short distance to the east of which runs the Rugby-Leicester branch of the former L.M.S. Railway, which crosses the Watling Street by a level crossing, one of the very few on that highway. Just east of the railway there is a small plantation, the only woodland in the parish, though all along the southern boundary, on the Monks Kirby side of the road, is one of the long shelter-belts characteristic of the neighbourhood, bounding the Newnham Paddox Estate. A fire in 1656 destroyed 5 cottages, causing £213 damage; a general collection throughout the county was ordered, Knightlow and Kington Hundreds having produced only £11 13s. 10d.<sup>3</sup>

WILEY is entered in Domesday Book MANOR with Wibtoft (q.v.) as part of the estates of the Count of Meulan.<sup>4</sup> The resulting overlordship of the earls of Warwick can be traced down to 1460, when it was in the king's hands by the forfeiture of Richard, Earl of Warwick (the Kingmaker), and 1473.<sup>5</sup> Before 1268 an intermediate tenancy was granted to the Hastings, Henry Hastings in that year holding Bedworth and Wiley as one fee,<sup>6</sup> this is again recorded at various dates up to 1535.<sup>7</sup>

In 1180-1 Robert de Wilega owed 2 marks for a plea against Simon de Verdun concerning land here.<sup>8</sup> Hugh de Herdebergh granted Wiley to Nicholas de Herdebergh and his heirs,<sup>9</sup> and in 1309 Nicholas received

14 messuages, 13½ virgates, and rents in Brailles and Wiley from Alice widow of John de Puttenham, with remainder to Roger and Aline de Puttenham and his heirs;<sup>10</sup> this 'manor' was granted by Aline and her second husband Thomas de la Haye<sup>11</sup> to John and Alice de Peyto in 1332.<sup>12</sup> Nicholas was dead without issue by 1315, when Wiley was described as held by the heirs of Hugh de Herdeberewere.<sup>13</sup> These were his grandchildren Ela and Isabel (their father Roger having died in Hugh's lifetime), the wives respectively of William le Boteler of Wem (Salop) and John de Hulle.<sup>14</sup> Alice, daughter of John and Isabel's surviving child Isabel, with her second husband John de Peyto the younger, came into possession of the whole of Wiley,<sup>15</sup> of which manor they made settlements in 1333 and 1339.<sup>16</sup> The remainders in the settlements of 1333, in which the manor was divided into two halves, one lying 'towards the east', and of 1339, when a moiety only was dealt with, were to William son of William le Boteler and the right heirs of his mother Ela. John de Peyto was still alive in 1345, when he did fealty to Edmund le Boteler (brother of the younger William), a fine having been concluded in which Ela le Boteler granted the reversion of the manor to her second son.<sup>17</sup> This transaction led to a lawsuit the following year between Ela, John and Alice, and William le Boteler, the latter maintaining that the original grant by Hugh to Nicholas de Herdebergh was in fee. The judgment, however, was that the grant had been in tail, thus legalizing the reversion of 1345.<sup>18</sup> Edmund le Boteler died without issue,<sup>19</sup> as also his brother Edward, a priest, at whose death in 1376 all the Boteler estates in Wiley, except a windmill, were let out and producing £8 11s. 4d. rent.<sup>20</sup> His heirs were the descendants of his four sisters: 'Joan', more correctly Elizabeth,<sup>21</sup> great-granddaughter of Ankaretta wife of John Strange of Blakemere; Nicholas, grandson of Alice wife of Nicholas de Langeford; Margaret, daughter of Ida wife of William Trussell of Odiham; and Walter, son of Denise wife of Hugh de Cokesey. The estates were therefore divided into four parts, of which Elizabeth Strange's was kept for the time being in the king's hands, she being a minor.<sup>22</sup> The following year Margaret and her husband Fulk de Penebrugg quitclaimed their quarter of the manor of Wiley to Walter de Cokesey for 100 marks.<sup>23</sup> The Strange

<sup>28</sup> Nichols, *Leics.* iv, 109-10.

<sup>29</sup> Ecton, *Thesaurus*, 241-2.

<sup>1</sup> White, *Directory Warw.* (1850), p.

595.

<sup>2</sup> In the 1517 inquiry as to inclosures George, Earl of Shrewsbury, lord of one of the manors, was reported to have inclosed and depopulated two messuages and 60 acres of arable land, in the tenure of Henry Salisbury (Leadam, *Domesday of Incl.* 432). A general Act for 13 yardlands (455 acres) was passed in 1769: Slater, *Engl. Peasantry and Incl.* 301.

<sup>3</sup> *Warw. Co. Records*, iii, 336-7, 349.

<sup>4</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* i, 315.

<sup>5</sup> *Book of Fees*, 957; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v,

615 (p. 405); *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 2 Hen. IV,

58; 16 Hen. VI, 19; 24 Hen. VI, 36;

*Cal. Fine R.* xix, 279; *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 13

Edw. IV, 32.

<sup>6</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* i, 679 (p. 213).

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.* v, 412 (p. 234); *Cal. Fine R.*

viii, 348; *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 22 Ric. II, 131;

1 Hen. V, 52; 9 Hen. V, 44; (Ser. 2),

lviii, 51.

<sup>8</sup> *Pipe R.* 27 Hen. II (Pipe R. Soc.), 78,

79.

<sup>9</sup> Wrottesley, *Pedigrees from Plea R.*

31.

<sup>10</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xv), 1291,

1292.

<sup>11</sup> *V.C.H. Bucks.* iii, 238.

<sup>12</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xv), 1737.

<sup>13</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, 412 (p. 234).

<sup>14</sup> Dugd. 73: cf. under Harborough

Magnus, above, p. 100.

<sup>15</sup> Wrottesley, *Pedigrees from Plea R.* 31.

<sup>16</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xv), 1744,

1846.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.* (xviii), 1970.

<sup>18</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1345-8, p. 51.

<sup>19</sup> Wrottesley, *Pedigrees from Plea R.*

124.

<sup>20</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 49 Edw. III, 1st

nos. 17.

<sup>21</sup> It was stated in 1398 that her real

name was Elizabeth: *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 22

Ric. II, 131.

<sup>22</sup> *Cal. Fine R.* viii, 348.

<sup>23</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xviii), 2241.

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

share passed to Ankaretta, Elizabeth's aunt;<sup>24</sup> she died in 1413 and her son and heir Gilbert Talbot before 1422, when it was divided into thirds, one of which was held in dower by Gilbert's widow Beatrice, the other two being in the king's hands owing to the minority of his daughter, another Ankaretta, to whom Sir John Talbot, Gilbert's brother, was heir and successor.<sup>25</sup> He was in 1442 created Earl of Shrewsbury,<sup>26</sup> and this quarter descended in his family till the death of Gilbert, 7th Earl (1616), when the Talbot estates were divided, Willey coming to his daughter Elizabeth, Countess of Kent, who enjoyed it when Dugdale was collecting materials for his history,<sup>27</sup> and was dealing with her share of the manor, described as a complete manor, in 1640.<sup>28</sup> She left no issue and this portion of Willey seems to have come to her brother-in-law Thomas Howard, Duke of Norfolk, as in 1679, when it consisted of one messuage and land, it was one of the estates proposed for vesting in trustees to pay off the family debts.<sup>29</sup> It was probably sold for this purpose, having lost its identity by 1730.<sup>30</sup>



TALBOT. *Gules a lion and a border engrailed or.*

The Langeford quarter was by 1562 in the hands of Henry Leigh,<sup>31</sup> whose son and successor Edward sold it to 'several private persons within memory'.<sup>32</sup> John Jorden (died 1625) and Richard Garrett (1640) possessed tenements in Willey,<sup>33</sup> perhaps fragments of this quarter.

As regards the other two quarters, Sir Hugh Cokesey, son of the Walter who obtained the Penebrugg quarter in 1377, died in possession in 1445; this manor had been settled on him and his wife Alice in tail in 1441<sup>34</sup> and remained with her till her death in 1460 as widow of Sir Andrew Ogard, but she having no children by her first husband the manor passed by the entail to his sister Joyce Beauchamp,<sup>35</sup> and at her death (1473) to Sir John Greville, her son by a previous marriage.<sup>36</sup> His son Thomas Greville, alias Cokesey, was dead by 1500, when licence of entry to his lands was granted to Robert Russell and Robert Winter, his distant cousins.<sup>37</sup> Willey came to the Winter family, in which it descended for three generations.<sup>38</sup> George, great-grandson of the Robert above mentioned, sold the estates to the tenants on coming of age (1565),<sup>39</sup> but was stated to hold the manor at his death in 1593,<sup>40</sup> and Robert Winter his son, aged 26 in 1593, was concerned in a recovery in 1604.<sup>41</sup> Manorial rights later came to the Feilding family of Newnham Paddox, earls of Denbigh, who were lords in 1830, when courts leet were held,<sup>42</sup>



WINTER. *Sable a fesse ermine.*

and 1900,<sup>43</sup> but the manorial rights seem to have lapsed by 1936.<sup>44</sup>

In 1197 William de Turvill owed £80 to Aaron the Jew on his lands in Linton, Fulbrook, and Willey.<sup>45</sup> The knight's fee representing Bedworth, Willey, and Sharnford (Leics.) was stated to be held in part by Robert Turvyle in 1313 and by his heirs as late as 1437-8,<sup>46</sup> but it seems probable that the family relinquished its lands in Willey before the middle of the 13th century to Roger de Craft, whose sister and coheir Isabel married Hugh de Herdebergh.<sup>47</sup>

A portion of the demesne lands of Monks Kirby Priory, later transferred to the Carthusians of Arholme (Lincs.), extended into Willey. Its value was not separately returned; in 1539 it was granted for life to Thomas Mannyng, ex-prior of Butley (Suffolk) and Bishop of Ipswich, with reversion to Charles, Duke of Suffolk, and his heirs.<sup>48</sup>

The church of **ST. LEONARD**, on the **CHURCH** east side of the village street, stands in a small churchyard. It is small and consists of a chancel, nave, vestry, south porch, and west tower. It has undergone considerable restoration and the chancel was rebuilt and enlarged with a vestry on the north side, and at the same time the south porch was built, the south wall refaced and battlemented parapets added to the nave and stair turret. Earlier the west wall had been refaced with ashlar. The tower and nave probably date from the late 14th or early 15th century.

The chancel and vestry are built of small red sandstone rubble with light-coloured dressings and are roofed with slates. The vestry has a two-light window on the north and is entered on the west. The chancel is lighted by a single-pointed cinquefoil light on the north, on the east by a pointed traceried window of three cinquefoil lights, and on the south by a single- and a two-light window, with a moulded trefoil-headed doorway between them; it has a hood-mould with shields as stops. The north wall of the nave is built of ashlar to sill level with a mixture of rubble and ashlar above. It is lighted by square-headed windows, one of three cinquefoil lights and one of two, both with label mouldings and between them there is a pointed doorway of one splay with a square label. The door has been blocked with ashlar. At the angle there is a small modern buttress. The 19th-century battlemented parapet includes a coved string-course with lions' head gargoyles. At the west end there is a projecting half-octagon stair turret built of rubble with worked dressings, the upper part rebuilt with a loop-light and battlemented parapet in the 19th century. The south side, entirely refaced, is lighted by two windows corresponding with the north side, and between them is a porch built of small rubble similar to the chancel. It is lighted on the west by a small single light, and the entrance has a pointed arch of two splays. There are buttresses at each end and one in the centre, all three rebuilt. The battlemented parapet on the north is repeated.

<sup>24</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. 1 Hen. V, 52.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid. 9 Hen. V, 44.

<sup>26</sup> G. E. C. *Compl. Peerage*, 1st ed. vii, 137.

<sup>27</sup> Dugd. 73.

<sup>28</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Hil. 15 Chas. I.

<sup>29</sup> *Hist. MSS. Comm. Appx.* to 11th Rep., pt. 2, p. 139.

<sup>30</sup> It is not mentioned in Thomas's revised edition of Dugdale.

<sup>31</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cxxiii, 39.

<sup>32</sup> Dugd. 73.

<sup>33</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccclxxxv, 101; cccclxxiii, 7.

<sup>34</sup> Ibid. 24 Hen. VI, 36.

<sup>35</sup> Ibid. 38-39 Hen. VI, 49; *Cal. Fine* R. xiv, 279.

<sup>36</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. 13 Edw. IV, 32.

<sup>37</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1494-1509, p. 192.

<sup>38</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), lvii, 51; lxxxix, 156; cxxlii, 75.

<sup>39</sup> Dugd. 73.

<sup>40</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cxxlii, 75.

<sup>41</sup> *Recov. R.* Mich. 2 Jas. I, ro. 12.

<sup>42</sup> *West. Directory Warw.* 724; White, *Directory Warw.* 595.

<sup>43</sup> Kelly, *Directory Warw.* (1900).

<sup>44</sup> There is no mention of manorial rights in Kelly's *Directory* for 1936.

<sup>45</sup> *Pipe R. 9 Ric. I* (Pipe R. Soc.), 172.

<sup>46</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, 415 (p. 234); Chan. Inq. p.m. 16 Hen. VI, 19.

<sup>47</sup> *F.C.H. Warw.* iii, 93.

<sup>48</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xiv (1), 651 (57).





WESTON-UNDER-WETHERLEY CHURCH, c. 1820



WILLOUGHBY CHURCH, c. 1820



The tower, built of sandstone ashlar, with a moulded plinth and battlemented parapet, rises in three stages, diminished by weathered offsets. At the western angles there are diagonal buttresses pinnising in six stages, the upper stages forming bases for pinnacles now missing; at the eastern angles the buttresses are at right angles to the north and south walls. It is lighted on the west on the ground floor by a window of two trefoil lights under a four-centred head, by a quatrefoil light in a square frame on the south side to the ringing-chamber, and by belfry windows on each face, of two trefoil lights under four-centred heads with transoms; all have hood-moulds with carved head-tops.

The chancel (22 ft. 6 in. by 15 ft.) has plastered walls, tiled floor and an open roof with matchboarded panels. On the north side there is a segmental arched opening into the vestry and on the south a pointed trefoil-headed piscina. The altar, which dates from the 17th century, is of oak with carved rails and turned legs and round it there are four contemporary stools with similar carving and legs.

The nave (40 ft. by 14 ft. 6 in.) has plastered walls and a tiled floor. At the eastern end of the north wall there is a doorway to a circular stair leading to one above it which opened on to the rood-loft. It has a chamfered four-centred arch under a square head, with sunk spandrels; the one above has a four-centred head. Built across the blocked north door is a modern tomb recess with a segmental pointed arch. The back of the recess is built on a thick carved red sandstone leger leaving only half exposed. It appears to represent an elaborate cross with three panels and resting on an heraldic lion.<sup>48a</sup> The upper panel has a male head and shoulders with the hands conjoined in prayer, the others may represent drapery; probably 15th-century. On the south side against the chancel arch there is a modern octagonal stone pulpit and near the south door a modern octagonal stone font. Standing in the south-west corner is a disused 14th-century font with a circular cup-shaped basin on an octagonal stem with a moulded capital and base on a square pedestal. The chancel arch is pointed, of two splayed orders, on half-octagon responds with moulded capitals and bases; the tower arch is also pointed, but of three splayed orders which die out on the walls. The roof is a good example

of 16th-century work, consisting of three bays with wall trusses each end. It is of low pitch, covered with lead, and its cambered tie-beams are supported on curved brackets and wall-posts. The beams, purlins, and wall-plates are richly moulded and in the centre of each tie-beam there is a carved boss; some of the purlins, and rafters have been replaced. The tower, 6 ft. square, has unplastered rubble walls, tiled floor, and a four-centred rear-arch to the window.

There are three bells:<sup>49</sup> (1) by Brian Eldridge, 1658; (2) by Eayre of Kettering, 1730; (3) by Hugh Watts, 1617.

The plate includes a silver chalice and cover, 1662. The registers commence in 1661.

The church of Willey, with a vir *ADPOWSON* gate of land and 2 tofts, was given to the Norman abbey of Préaux between 1129 and 1146 by Roger Abbadon, when he became a monk there. His gift was confirmed by his son Hugh, and by the earls Roger of Warwick and Robert of Leicester, before Roger, Bishop of Chester.<sup>50</sup> Hugh de Herdebergh in 1273 quitclaimed the advowson to William, Abbot of Préaux, and Nicholas, prior of its cell at Warmington, for 10 marks.<sup>51</sup> During the 14th century presentations were frequently made by the king, the possessions of the cell being in Crown hands owing to the war with France.<sup>52</sup> On the suppression of alien priories, life grants of the Warmington property were made to Lewis de Clifford and to Thomas Erpyng-ham,<sup>53</sup> and finally (1413) to the Carthusian priory of Witham (Som.),<sup>54</sup> which held the advowson till the Dissolution. An annual pension of 13s. 4d. out of the rectory was granted to Warmington Priory in or before 1380<sup>55</sup> and this, reduced in amount to 6s. 8d., was in 1550 granted to John Croker the elder with remainders to his sons Gerard, John, and Richard, and their heirs male.<sup>56</sup> This pension or rent remained as a separate entity to the end of the 17th century.<sup>57</sup> The advowson was retained by the Crown till the latter part of the 19th century;<sup>58</sup> in 1900 it was held by Lord Camoys,<sup>59</sup> and it has changed hands several times since, being in 1940 held by Mr. R. A. Lucas.<sup>60</sup>

The value of the church in 1291 was £3 6s. 8d.,<sup>61</sup> and of the rectory in 1535 £8 6s., in addition to 7s. 4d. or procuration and synodals.<sup>62</sup>

## WILLOUGHBY

Acreage: 1,715.

Population: 1911, 276; 1921, 306; 1931, 336.

Willoughby is a parish on the eastern border of the county, 7 miles south of Rugby. It is divided from Wolfhampcote on the south by the River Leam and from Grandborough on the west by a tributary of this river; the village is in the centre of the parish on another small stream. The northern and eastern boundaries, where Willoughby marches with Barby and Braunston in Northants., are largely artificial. In the north-east corner near Cleve's Hill a height of 450 ft. is attained, but most of the parish lies in the south Warwickshire

plain at an altitude of 300 ft. or less. The Oxford Canal, which crosses the eastern side of the parish, was said in 1830 to have 'much increased the prosperity of this place'.<sup>1</sup> A hundred years ago the houses of the village were 'chiefly ancient with thatched roofs . . . have a very rural appearance, and the whole village has a pleasing air of tranquility and retirement'.<sup>2</sup> At this time Willoughby achieved some prominence from a sulphurous and saline spring, discovered about 1800 on Mr. Edmunds's farm in the south of the parish, with medicinal properties and recommended for both drinking and bathing.<sup>3</sup> The fair originally granted in

<sup>48a</sup> This was found in 1885 serving as the lintel of the south door: *N. & Q.* (6th Ser.), xi, 28.

<sup>49</sup> Tilley and Walters, *Church Bells of Warwick*, 263.

<sup>50</sup> *Cal. Docts. France*, 113.

<sup>51</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xi), 910.

<sup>52</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1324-7, pp. 126, 134, 256; 1338-40, p. 510; 1345-8, p. 165.

<sup>53</sup> *Ibid.* 1401-5, p. 263; 1405-8, p. 295.

<sup>54</sup> *Ibid.* 1413-16, p. 91.

<sup>55</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* ii, 132; Add. MSS.

6164, fol. 356.

<sup>56</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1550-3, p. 63; Chan. Inq.

p.m. (Ser. 2), cli, 118.

<sup>57</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Hil. 1657, and Trin.

Wm. & Mary.

<sup>58</sup> Dugd. 74; *Clergy List*, 1859.

<sup>59</sup> Kelly, *Directory Warwick*.

<sup>60</sup> Crookford, 1940.

<sup>61</sup> *Tax. Ecdl.* (Rec. Com.), 244.

<sup>62</sup> *Valer Ecdl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 58.

<sup>1</sup> West, *Directory Warwick*, 739.

<sup>2</sup> White, *Directory Warwick*, (1850), p. 680.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

1248 was still held in the 1830's,<sup>4</sup> and at the present time the village, from its situation on the high road from Daventry to Coventry and Rugby, and also with canal communication and a main-line railway-station (formerly L.N.E.R. from Marylebone to the North), seems likely to expand and prosper.

East of the village, near the main road, there is a group of 17th-century houses built of squared and coursed sandstone, with thatched roofs, but all have been fitted with modern windows. Two small cottages have walls of puddled clay with small windows set in deep splay, others which have been rebuilt still retain some of what are termed locally mud walls; their thatched roofs are now covered with corrugated-iron sheets.

Parliamentarian troops passing through the village after the battle of Edge Hill are said to have tried to pull down the ancient cross, from which they were dissuaded by the vicar.<sup>5</sup> An Inclosure Act for 36 yards-lands (1,500 acres) was passed in 1759.<sup>6</sup>

In 1086 *WILLOUGHBY* contained *MANOR* several small estates, three being held under Turchil of Warwick by Ulvic (1½ virgates), Ordric (2 hides extending into Woolscot and Calcutt in Grandborough), and Leuiet and Goduin (½ hide). These three pieces of land had been held freely before 1066 by the same respective subtenants.<sup>7</sup> Hugh de Grantemesnil held one and one-sixth hides in Hillmorton and Willoughby of the king in *custodia*; this had been held by Grinchet and Suain.<sup>8</sup>

The resulting overlordship of the earls of Warwick, as to Turchil's holdings, is recorded as to one-half and one-fifth of a fee in 1242–3,<sup>9</sup> 1268 (half-fee only, the fifth being returned under Woolscott),<sup>10</sup> 1315,<sup>11</sup> and 1401.<sup>12</sup> The Grantemesnil holding, here and at Shrewley,<sup>13</sup> was granted out by Henry I to Wigan,<sup>14</sup> to be held by serjeanty of acting as marshal, later defined as that of providing at his own cost one man and two horses in every army of the king in England and Wales.<sup>15</sup> Ralph son of Wigan died in or shortly before 1215 and his brother William, apparently to save the estate from escheating, made it over to Henry de Waltham, his nephew, who did homage to King John for this land, amounting to 1 carucate and a half-virgate and a mill in Willoughby. In 1221, therefore, it was agreed that Henry de Waltham should hold it for life for an annual payment of 2 marks, with reversion to Ivo son of (Henry's uncle) William and his heirs; he stated that he did not hold the whole of the estate, as Aubrey widow of Ralph son of Wigan held in dower and the church was enfeoffed of one acre.<sup>16</sup> In 1221 Henry owed 10 marks for relief of William's lands,<sup>17</sup> and the following year again did homage;<sup>18</sup> shortly after this he was in possession of one carucate and 17s. rent, held by serjeanty of acting as marshal in the Court of Common Pleas, when this portion was stated to be worth 2½ marks.<sup>19</sup> Henry died and Ivo did homage for his lands in 1235.<sup>20</sup> In 1251–2

the total holding was said to be 12 virgates, valued at £12. It was then stated that Wigan, with Juliana Pantulf his wife, had been enfeoffed of it by Henry II (*sic*). His son Ralph had kept 10 virgates in demesne, and had subinfeudated William Hastang of 2 virgates. He also had enfeoffed Oliver Sarazin of an unspecified amount by service of a sore sparrowhawk, and Oliver had enfeoffed William de Flamvil on his marriage with his daughter Petronilla. After William's death the Sarazin holding, apparently of 2 virgates, was divided as 4 half-virgates between Oliver's children William, Thomas, Rouland, and Maud. The 10 virgates in demesne descended to Ralph's brother William and his son Ivo, on whose death without heirs his uncle Thurstan enfeoffed the Hospital of St. John Baptist, Oxford, of 'the whole manor', worth £20 with the advowson of the church.<sup>21</sup> Ivo's death occurred in or before 1242, when his cousin Peter, Thurstan's son, paid 40 marks to have seisin of all his Warwickshire lands,<sup>22</sup> and in the same year Ralph de Broke, apparently the son-in-law of Thurstan's sister Lucy, released all his right in the manor to the hospital.<sup>23</sup> At the inquisition *post mortem* on Ivo, when it was stated that his possessions in Willoughby amounted to one carucate of land and 20s. and a pound of pepper in rents, it was also stated that Peter had been born twenty-five years before Thurstan married his mother, and whether he or Godfrey son of Ralph (de Broke) was the right heir was left to 'the king's discernment'.<sup>24</sup> The lands were divided by fine in 1242, when Godfrey granted to Peter 2 carucates in Willoughby and Shrewley in Hattton in consideration of 16 marks silver and the right to hold, of the hospital, all the lands and tenements in Willoughby which Godfrey held on the day the concord was made.<sup>25</sup> In the same year Peter granted a carucate to the hospital in frank almain,<sup>26</sup> and also the carucate formerly held by Ivo, half of which represented the dower formerly held by Aubrey de Thynden, widow of Ivo's uncle Ralph.<sup>27</sup> The actual grantor in the latter case was the Prior of Canons Ashby (Northants.), whose right in the land Peter acknowledged, and to whom the master of the hospital gave 50 marks silver. Various other grants were made to this priory,<sup>28</sup> but by 1316 the Hospital of St. John Baptist, Oxford, held the lordship of the manor,<sup>29</sup> and in the previous year held the half and fifth fees under the Earl of Warwick.<sup>30</sup> As early as 1248 the warden, brethren, and sick of the hospital were granted a Tuesday market and Whitsun fair of two days' duration at Willoughby.<sup>31</sup>

The gifts of land and other property to the hospital up to 1246 are recited on the charter roll of 50 Henry III,<sup>32</sup> and many were subsequently received.<sup>33</sup> In 1269 John son of Peter Thurstayn gave a messuage and a carucate of land, no doubt the remainder of the estate formerly held by Wigan in serjeanty.<sup>34</sup> In 1294 it received two cottages from William son of Ivo de Wyleby,<sup>35</sup>

<sup>4</sup> West, loc. cit.  
<sup>5</sup> White, loc. cit.  
<sup>6</sup> Slater, *Engl. Peasantry and Encl.* 302.  
<sup>7</sup> *V.C.H. Warwick*, i, 321–2.  
<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.* 325.  
<sup>9</sup> *Book of Fees*, 957. The fifth of a fee was held by Turchil's descendant Thomas de Ardenne.  
<sup>10</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* i, 679 (p. 213).  
<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.* v, 615 (p. 404).  
<sup>12</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 2 Hen. IV, 58.  
<sup>13</sup> *V.C.H. Warwick*, iii, 117.  
<sup>14</sup> *Red Book of Exch.* (Rolls Ser.), 304.

<sup>15</sup> *Book of Fees*, 1180, 1230.  
<sup>16</sup> *Assize R.* 951, m. 154.  
<sup>17</sup> *Pipe R.* 5 Hen. III, m. 15.  
<sup>18</sup> *Exc. & Rot. Fin.* (Rec. Com.), i, 77.  
<sup>19</sup> *Book of Fees*, 375.  
<sup>20</sup> *Exc. & Rot. Fin.* (Rec. Com.), i, 285, 287.  
<sup>21</sup> *Book of Fees*, 1279.  
<sup>22</sup> *Exc. & Rot. Fin.* (Rec. Com.), i, 388.  
<sup>23</sup> *MSS.* of Magdalen Coll., *ex inf.* Estates Bursar.  
<sup>24</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* i, 919.  
<sup>25</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xi), 608.  
<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.* 606.

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid.* 609.  
<sup>28</sup> Magdalen Coll. *MSS.*  
<sup>29</sup> *Fodral Aids*, v, 176.  
<sup>30</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, 615 (p. 404).  
<sup>31</sup> *Cal. Chart.* R. i, 334. Indexed as Wyleby (Wilby) in Northants, but the Hospital had no connexion with this place.  
<sup>32</sup> *Cal. Chart.* R. i, 266–7.  
<sup>33</sup> Magdalen Coll. *MSS.*  
<sup>34</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xi), 856.  
<sup>35</sup> *Chan. Inq. a.q.d.* xxi, 14. In *Cal. Pat.* 1292–1301, p. 107, the donor is described as Robert son of Ivo.



and in 1346 a messuage, 83 acres of land, 7 of meadow and 21. 9d. rent from William le Blount of Wyleby and Lucy his wife,<sup>36</sup> these latter probably representing the holding of 3 virgates by Robert Blund under the Earl of Warwick in 1235,<sup>37</sup> and the fifth of a fee held by William le Blount from the master of the hospital early in the 14th century.<sup>38</sup>

In 1457, on the foundation of Magdalen College on the site of the hospital, its endowments were transferred to that college,<sup>39</sup> which has ever since held the lordship of the manor. In 1535 the manor was at farm for £8 10s. 6d.; rents of customary tenants produced £13 17s. 2d., and of freeholders £1 15s. 7½d.<sup>40</sup> From at least 1444–5 the hospital had leased most of its Willoughby estates to Richard Hamund or Clarke and his descendants,<sup>41</sup> and similar leases were made by the college till 1730 or later.<sup>42</sup> Other tenants were Thomas Andrew, senior (died 1496), who held a messuage and a virgate of land, worth 20s. 8d., by fealty and 1d. annual rent,<sup>43</sup> and John Smyth (1501), three messuages and two virgates worth 40s. by fealty only.<sup>44</sup> The President and Fellows of Magdalen are still the principal landowners, Willoughby being the college's most ancient estate.<sup>45</sup>

Messuages, arable and pasture land, and rent in Willoughby and elsewhere were granted by Thomas de Astley to his chantry, later Astley College, in 1337.<sup>46</sup> The portion in Willoughby and Dunchurch was worth 54s. 4d. in 1535.<sup>47</sup> These properties were granted in tail to Henry, Marquess of Dorset, and Lady Frances his wife (1546).<sup>48</sup>

The church of *ST. NICHOLAS* is *CHURCH* situated to the west of the Daventry–

Coventry road in a small churchyard on the western outskirts of the village. It consists of a chancel, nave, north and south aisles, tower, north and south porches, and was built at the beginning of the 16th century, the tower being the last part to be completed. The tower and porches are built of ashlar, the rest of the church of sandstone rubble with worked dressings.

The chancel has been almost entirely rebuilt in brick, including the angle buttresses, rendered over with cement and lined out with joints to imitate ashlar. It has only one window, a modern one of three lights. The upper half of the south aisle walls has been rebuilt partly in stone, partly in brick, including the plain parapet, rendered with cement. In carrying out this work the pointed arches to the windows were replaced with four-centred heads roughly formed in stone and cement, and new tracery was fitted to the old jambs, keeping the design by shortening the lights in the tracery; at the same time brick buttresses rendered with cement were built at each end of the aisle. It is lighted by three tracery windows of three cinquefoil ogee lights, one in the east wall and one on each side of the porch; another at the west end has been blocked up and cemented over. The porch has

a slated roof with a moulded coping to the gable, its kneelers carved with fleurs-de-lis; it is now used as a heating-chamber. The entrance arch is pointed, of two splayed orders continued down the jambs with moulded capitals to both orders, which are extended to form stops to the hood-mould. On both sides there are stone benches and single-light square-headed windows of one splay. The doorway has a four-centred arch of one sunk splay continued without capitals. The north aisle parapet has been rebuilt in brick and cemented over. There are three windows, two east of the porch and one west, the ones to the east and west are original, the other has modern tracery of the same design, but the lights in the tracery trefoil instead of cinquefoil. They have pointed arches of two splays, the outer one sunk, three pointed cinquefoil lights, with four similar lights forming the tracery. The window to the west is similar but has a hollow instead of a sunk splay and is constructed of red sandstone. The porch closely resembles that on the south. The entrance arch is pointed, moulded on its outer face, a single splay on the inner, both carried down the jambs, and has a hood-mould with large diamond-shaped stops. The doorway has a pointed arch of one wide splay set in a stop-chamfered segmental-headed recess.

The tower, which has a moulded plinth, is divided into four stages by moulded string-courses and is finished with a moulded embattled parapet, and panelled piers at each angle. There are slender diagonal buttresses rising in five weathered stages on the west, the lower stage finished with a gable with the figures 1– on the north and 30 on the south, the second figure on the north is too decayed to read but presumably it is a 5 for 1530; there are similar buttresses at right angles to the south-east and north-east angles. The west side, in the lower stage, has a pointed tracery window of three trefoil lights and a hood-mould with large diamond-shaped stops having carved rosettes in the centre. On the south is a single trefoil light to the ringing-chamber, and traces of a painted sundial. On the north, at the junction of the tower with the nave, a half-octagon stair-turret, which diminishes at the second and third stages; it has two loop-lights in the lower stage, and a door with a flat chamfered head and jambs. On the east is a clock-face in the second stage. The belfry windows on all four faces have moulded pointed arches of two orders with two trefoil lights and hood-moulds formed by the string-course.

The chancel (18 ft. 7 in. by 16 ft. 9 in.) has a low-pitched modern roof, and a tiled floor with one step to the altar. On the north side there is a roughly formed later opening with a semicircular head giving access to what was probably a chantry chapel at the end of the aisle, now an organ-chamber.

The nave (34 ft. 6 in. by 15 ft. 3 in.) has a flat plastered ceiling below a low-pitched roof, and a stone-paved floor. The arcades are alike and consist of three bays of moulded four-centred arches, the moulding being carried down without capitals, forming lozenge-shaped pillars resting on lozenge bases with one splay; the responds at each end are half-pillars. The chancel arch is a repeat of the arcade. The tower arch is



MAGDALEN COLLEGE, OXFORD. Lozenge sable and ermine a chief sable with three lilies thereon.

<sup>36</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xv), no. 1984.

<sup>37</sup> *Book of Fees*, 957.

<sup>38</sup> Add. MS. 28024, fol. 192 v.

<sup>39</sup> *P.C.H. Oxon.* ii, 159.

<sup>40</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 278.

<sup>41</sup> Dugd. 281.

<sup>42</sup> *Ibid.* Leigh Clarke of this family was High Constable of Knightlow Hundred in 1652; *Warw. Co. Records*, iii, 46.

<sup>43</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII*, ii, 293. The college is described in error as All Souls.

<sup>44</sup> *Ibid.* ii, 520.

<sup>45</sup> *Ex inf.* Estates Bursar, Magdalen Coll.

<sup>46</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1334–8, p. 389.

<sup>47</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 61.

<sup>48</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xvi (1), 1537 (7).

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

pointed, of three orders, the inner supported on attached shafts with moulded capitals and bases, the outer on the nave side continues to the ground, on the tower side it dies out on the tower walls. The south aisle has a plastered ceiling, and a stone-paved floor to the east bays and modern tiles to the west bay. The south wall has been roughly arcaded with four-centred heads in three bays, part of the heads forming rear-arches to the windows. The door has a segmental-pointed rear-arch and above it a painted and framed coat of arms of George III. In the west bay against the arcade pillar there is a rather unusual font. It is of red sandstone, shaped like an inverted bell with a simple roll-moulded rim and a square stem with beaded panels on three sides, the other is plain. Carved immediately below the rim on one side there are two crude demi-figures with outstretched arms, ending in a sort of fleur-de-lis, separated by two leaves shaped like fleurs-de-lis. It has a deep lead-lined basin and the bowl and stem are out of one piece of stone; the base is hidden below the flooring. It probably dates from early in the 13th century.

The north aisle (44 ft. by 8 ft. 11 in.) has a plaster ceiling and stone-paved floor. It is extended at the east end for a chapel, now screened off for an organ-chamber. Concealed behind the organ there is a 17th-century table tomb.<sup>49</sup> On the one end that can be seen there is a coat of arms which also occurs on a wall memorial on the north wall to Henry son of Thomas Clerke, died 1687, and his wife, died 1669. There is also a wall memorial to George Watson with the following inscription: 'In the coast of Guiney George Watson son of Thomas Watson of Willoughby (and one of his Majesties Captains at sea) departed this life July y<sup>e</sup> 15 anno D. 1674 aetatis suae 45 and gave to y<sup>e</sup> poor of Willoughby y<sup>e</sup> profit of 50<sup>p</sup> for ever to be distributed as by a decree in Chancery is sett forth.

Death hath controuled a Captain bold  
Yet loss of life is gain  
Especially when charity  
For ever doth remaine.'

The tower (9 ft. 11 in. by 9 ft. 11 in.) is screened off as a vestry and the ceiling plastered. A later door has been cut through the tower wall to give internal access to the tower stair, and above it, about 8 ft. from the floor, there is evidence of a narrow blocked doorway. The doorway to the ringing-chamber has an ogee head and that to the belfry a four-centred arch. In the ringing-chamber there is a disused carillon with a wooden drum and iron teeth mounted on a wrought-oak frame, and corner posts with ball finials, probably early-17th century. The clock, also disused, probably dates from the beginning of the 17th century. It has two trains and the weights are raised by iron capstan bars on the drums; the uprights of the iron frame are

finished with scrolls. An electric clock has been installed as a memorial of the war of 1939-45.

There are six bells,<sup>50</sup> five by Joseph Smith, 1713, and one by William Chapman, 1781.

The registers begin in 1625.

The church was granted by *ADVOWSON* Thurstan to the Hospital of St. John Baptist, Oxford, before 1246,<sup>51</sup> when the grant was confirmed by Gilbert de Segrave,<sup>52</sup> as it was by Thurstan's grandson John in 1269.<sup>53</sup> It has ever since followed the descent of the manor.

The exact date of the appropriation is not known, but the value of the vicarage in 1291 was £2,<sup>54</sup> and in 1535 £9 4s. 4d.<sup>55</sup> The rectory in 1535 was farmed for £8 10s. 6d.<sup>56</sup>

John Hayward in 1436-7 bequeathed a messuage in Willoughby and 20 acres of land in Kites Hardwick and Broadwell to maintain a lamp to burn perpetually in Willoughby church.<sup>57</sup> Other land in Woolscott, Hardwick, and Thurlaston was given for the support of an obit and distribution of bread and herrings in the church, to be followed by prayers for all Christians.<sup>58</sup>

The Willoughby Charity, *CHARITIES* prising the charities of John Hayward and Margaret his wife, William Flavell, John Brook, George Watson, and Bridget Freemantle, formerly regulated by a scheme of the Court of Exchequer of 6 July 1841 and a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 6 November 1868, is now regulated by schemes of the said Commissioners dated 18 January 1907 and 22 October 1920. Under the scheme of 1907 part of the endowment of the charity is separated to constitute the Ecclesiastical Charity. Another part of the endowment constitutes the endowment of the Willoughby Educational Foundation. The scheme also appoints bodies of trustees to administer (1) the Ecclesiastical Charity and (2) the original charity (other than the Ecclesiastical Charity and the Foundation). The annual income of the charity amounts to £373 approximately.

William Cropper, by will dated 20 May 1890, bequeathed to the churchwardens and overseers £200, the income to be expended on coals to be distributed to the ten oldest men and the ten oldest women in the Parish on St. Thomas's Day. The annual income of the charity amounts to £8 14s. 4d.

Ann Barker, by will dated 23 January 1902, bequeathed a moiety of her residuary estate to the vicar, churchwardens, and overseers of Willoughby, the interest, amounting to £4 6s., to be distributed about Christmas Day equally between the aged poor residing in the parish.

Mary Adelaide Hodgson, by will dated 13 June 1935, bequeathed £200 to the Coventry Diocesan Trustees to augment the endowment of the vicarage of Willoughby, requesting the vicar to maintain in good order certain graves and tombstones in the churchyard.

<sup>49</sup> This is the tomb of Thomas son of Clement Clerke, died 1663, aged 83: Dugd. 232.

<sup>50</sup> Tilley and Walters, *Church Bells of Warwick*, 263-4.

<sup>51</sup> *Book of Fees*, 1279.

<sup>52</sup> Magdalen Coll. MSS.

<sup>53</sup> *Fees of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xi), 856.

<sup>54</sup> *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 244. The valuation of the church (i.e. rectory) does not appear in the printed *Taxatio*, but Dugdale (281) gives it as '8 marks'; on the other hand it is said in 1340 to be

assessed at 5 marks: *Inq. Non.* (Rec. Com.), 446.

<sup>55</sup> *Faler Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 62.

<sup>56</sup> *Ibid.* ii, 278.

<sup>57</sup> *Chan. Inq.* p.m. 15 Hen. VI, 64.

<sup>58</sup> *Exch. Spec. Com.* 1440 (19 Eliz.).

## WITHYBROOK

Acres: 2,519.

Population: 1911, 214; 1921, 266; 1931, 288.

Withybrook parish is situated about 7 miles north-east of Coventry. It occupies the upper part of the valley of a tributary of the Sowe, the ground falling from just over 450 ft. at Cloudeley Bush at the north-east corner to 300 ft. at Hopsford in the south-west. Hopsford is a hamlet, formerly a separate manor; in the early 17th century there were disputes between its inhabitants and those of the main village regarding levies and taxes, and it was laid down at Quarter Sessions in 1631 that Hopsford was responsible for a third part of the parish total.<sup>1</sup> When Dugdale wrote, Hopsford was 'little better than a depopulated place, there being no more left of the Mannour house than the bare skeleton, not habitable, and two mean Cottages'; in 1730, however, there were six houses.<sup>2</sup> At the present time the site of the former settlement can be traced to the north and west of Old Hall Farm, with the street leading to the ford.<sup>3</sup> The eastern boundary of Withybrook is formed by the Fosse Way, which is crossed at the north-east corner of the parish by the road from Lutterworth to Hinckley; that from Lutterworth to Bedworth and Nuneaton crosses the parish farther south-west, the straggling village being where it crosses the above-mentioned brook; and there are minor roads from the village east to Foxon's Corner on the Fosse Way, and west to Hopsford and Shilton. The main former L.M.S.R. line to Crewe and the North, and the Oxford Canal, touch the south-west edge of the parish; the latter formerly ran in a more circuitous course along the 300-ft. contour, passing near Hopsford Hall. The northern and eastern boundaries of the parish are very clearly defined by two shelter belts of trees, each about 2 miles long, but there is no other woodland in the parish. A good deal of inclosure seems to have been going on in the 17th century, as in 1633 inquiry showed 492 acres of former arable 'decayed' by the action of nine persons, Sir Henry Dimocke being responsible for 170 acres, John and Mary Britten for 110 acres, and Thomas Wright for 70 acres.<sup>4</sup> In 1672 the houses of William Paget and William Swaine were licensed for Presbyterian worship.<sup>5</sup>

**WITHYBROOK** is not mentioned in *MANORS* Domesday Book, the first reference being an exchange, *temp.* Henry II, by which Richard de Morville gave to his kinsman William Rodville, Lindley (Leics.) for Withybrook.<sup>6</sup> This was confirmed by Roger de Mowbray, of whom de Morville held 5 fees in 1166;<sup>7</sup> he also confirmed Richard's grant of 2 virgates to the abbey of Combe.<sup>8</sup> Richard de Morville (between 1188 and 1191), desiring to be buried in that abbey, gave the monks 6 virgates, namely

248 acres, with the meadow of Aldeford and Kalde-welle, 'except the little meadow between the two brooks (*siches*) which Spilleman holds'; he also affirmed that Nicholas son of Liulf had no rights in the monks' fishpond except for a causeway and in water for his mill and mill-pool, which pool he should so make that the water would not flow back beyond 'where the swan's nest used to be'.<sup>9</sup> Niel (son of Roger) de Mowbray confirmed his acts.<sup>10</sup> Other grants in Withybrook were made to Combe Abbey, whose head was granted free warren in his demesnes in Withybrook and elsewhere in 1290.<sup>11</sup> The following year the value of the Combe property in Withybrook, including a garden, a dove-house, and the stock, was £6 7s. 6d.<sup>12</sup> which had increased to £10 13s. 3d. in 1535.<sup>13</sup> The abbot held of Richard de Harecourt 2 knights' fees in Withybrook and Wolvey in 1293,<sup>14</sup> but most of this was probably in Wolvey (q.v.). The Combe manor was granted, with the pastures leased with it to Christopher Wrenn, to Thomas Broke, merchant tailor of London, and John Wyllyams in 1544.<sup>15</sup> By Broke it was bequeathed to Richard Tonge,<sup>16</sup> and on 1 January 1563 his son<sup>17</sup> Peter Tonge was licensed to alienate it to Thomas Broome,<sup>18</sup> who with his wife Mary had a similar licence in April of that year<sup>19</sup> and sold it to George Turpin in 1564.<sup>20</sup> The latter and his wife Frances sold to John Grey and his wife Jane in 1574,<sup>21</sup> and they to Edward Boughton in 1576-7.<sup>22</sup> Boughton died in possession in 1589,<sup>23</sup> and his son Henry was a vouchee in 1594.<sup>24</sup>

Nicholas son of Liulf, who contributed (as Nicholas de Withbroc) in 1209-10 to the sum required by his overlord William de Mowbray to reclaim his inheritance against William de Stuteville,<sup>25</sup> probably held the manor, as he laid claim to the advowson of the church in 1205.<sup>26</sup> His son Nicholas of Coventry gave an undertaking not to raise his mill-pond above its former level in 1229,<sup>27</sup> and with his freeholders came to an agreement with the convent of Combe about common of pasture in 1240.<sup>28</sup> William de Castell, perhaps Nicholas's son-in-law, as he held his land in right of his wife Joan, was the next lord and a benefactor to Combe Abbey.<sup>29</sup> His grandson William in 1284-5 paid 40s. for confirmation of his right to view of frankpledge and assize of bread and ale in Withybrook.<sup>30</sup> Alice, widow of his son George, held the lordship in 1316,<sup>31</sup> presumably in dower, as George left a son William.<sup>32</sup> He was probably dead by 1332 when Maud de Castell (? his widow) was the chief



DE CASTELL. Gules two bars or and a canton or charged with a cattle table.

<sup>1</sup> *Warw. Co. Records*, i, 113, 123, 233-4.

<sup>2</sup> In 1662 Withybrook was ordered to contribute 12d. (later 6d.) a week to the poor of (Walsgrave on) Sowe, and in 1666 to Rugby poor: *ibid.* iv, 174-5, 187; v, 28.

<sup>3</sup> Dugd. 217, 218.

<sup>4</sup> *Ex inf.* Mr. M. W. Beresford.

<sup>5</sup> *S.P. Dom. Chas.* I, vol. 257, no. 129.

<sup>6</sup> *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1672, pp. 42, 44, 370.

<sup>7</sup> Nichols, *Leics.* iv, 645.

<sup>8</sup> *Red Book of Exch.* (Rolls ser.), 419.

<sup>9</sup> Cott. MS. Vitell. A.I, fol. 39.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.* fol. 74 v.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.* fol. 75.

<sup>12</sup> *Cal. Chart. R.* ii, 343.

<sup>13</sup> *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 253.

<sup>14</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 54.

<sup>15</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* iii, 116 (p. 76).

<sup>16</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xix (2), 527 (42).

<sup>17</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1547-8, p. 143.

<sup>18</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), lxxv, 3.

<sup>19</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1560-3, p. 546.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.* p. 551.

<sup>21</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Trin. 6 Eliz.

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid.* Hil. 16 Eliz.

<sup>23</sup> Pat. 19 Eliz. pt. 3. This was confirmed by a fine (East. 20 Eliz.) with

warranty against the Boughtons and their heirs, and also all the occupants of the manor from Tonge onwards.

<sup>24</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cccxvii, 205.

<sup>25</sup> *Recov. R. East.* 36 Eliz. ro. 43.

<sup>26</sup> Dugd. 214, 218.

<sup>27</sup> *Curia Regii R.* iv, 1.

<sup>28</sup> Cott. MS. Vitell. A.I, fol. 75.

<sup>29</sup> *Ibid.* 74.

<sup>30</sup> *Ibid.* fol. 78 v. See also *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xi), 826.

<sup>31</sup> *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 785.

<sup>32</sup> *Feudal Aids*, v, 170.

<sup>33</sup> *Cal. Fine R.* iv, 31.

taxpayer in Withybrook.<sup>33</sup> William's grandson George was in 1373 excused jury service and appointment as sheriff, escheator, or other Crown official,<sup>34</sup> but was made a collector of the poll tax in 1377 and escheator for Warwickshire and Leicestershire in 1381 and 1384,<sup>35</sup> knight of the shire in 1386,<sup>36</sup> and sheriff the following year.<sup>37</sup> A Robert de Castell held similar offices and was also steward of the manor of Cheylesmore in 1422.<sup>38</sup> The manor seems to have been the subject of a settlement by George de Castell, for in 1407 it had been bought by William Botener of Coventry, a member of a family that supplied several mayors of that city and contributed largely to the rebuilding of St. Michael's Church, from Thomas Compworth and Elizabeth his wife;<sup>39</sup> the warranty being against the heirs of Elizabeth suggests that she was a de Castell. In 1450 it was settled by Henry Everyingham and Alice (? Botener) his wife on themselves in tail, with remainder to the right heirs of Alice.<sup>40</sup> In 1499 Humphrey Grey died seised of the manor of Withybrook, then worth 20 marks and held of the Prior of St. John of Jerusalem as of the manor of Balsall by 16s. 10d. rent; Edward Grey, aged 26, was his son and heir.<sup>41</sup> The latter bequeathed a life interest in the manor to his wife Anne, who with his son Thomas survived him (1529).<sup>42</sup> Thomas's son John Grey obtained possession of the Combe manor in 1574,<sup>43</sup> and the two manors passed to Edward Boughton, whose son Henry, with Sir James Harrington and others, conveyed one of the manors, with a mill, to Sir John Spencer in 1594.<sup>44</sup> Sir John's descendants were lords up to 1827,<sup>45</sup> since when the manor has been in possession of the Loyd family.<sup>46</sup> By 1936 the estate had been broken up and there were various landowners, many of the farmers being owners of their farms.<sup>47</sup>

Another manor was, at the end of the 16th century, in the hands of the Leigh family of King's Newnham.<sup>48</sup> Sir Francis Leigh the elder died in possession in 1625, having settled the manor on his son Francis on his marriage (1618) with Dame Audrey widow of Sir Francis Anderson<sup>49</sup> and daughter of Sir John Boteler, to whom the second Sir Francis Leigh and his wife passed the manor in 1626.<sup>50</sup> The male line of the Botelers ended with the death of Sir John's son William in 1647 and this manor seems to have been resumed by the Leighs, being in 1671 conveyed by Elizabeth, Countess of Northumberland, daughter of Sir Francis Leigh, and others to Orlando Bridgeman.<sup>51</sup> Another Orlando Bridgeman, great-grandson of the former, was dealing with it in 1726.<sup>52</sup> The Dukes of Montagu

and of Buccleuch occur as vouches of the manor of Withybrook in 1711 and 1814,<sup>53</sup> Elizabeth (Leigh) having married as her second husband John, 1st Duke of Montagu.<sup>54</sup>

The Erdington family held land in Withybrook, producing in 1326 20s. in rent.<sup>55</sup> This holding is last mentioned in 1434 when Sibyl widow of Thomas Erdington held it in dower, her heir being her son Thomas, aged 31.<sup>56</sup>

**HOPSFORD** figures in Domesday Book as 'Apleford', 3 hides being held of Geoffrey de Wirc by Ulvric, who had been the tenant of Lewin before 1066.<sup>57</sup> The subsequent overlordship of the Mowbrays and their descendants is shown in inquisitions of 1297, when Robert de Hastang held a half-fee in Nuthurst and Hopsford subject to scutage,<sup>58</sup> 1361, 1399, and 1461, in the last case Hopsford being reckoned by itself for a quarter of a fee.<sup>59</sup>

In the middle of the 12th century Herbert Putot was the tenant of the Mowbrays; he gave 2 virgates of land at Hopsford, one of his demesne and the other of *'terra defensabilis'*, to Combe Abbey, this grant being confirmed by Henry II between 1154 and 1158.<sup>60</sup> The later tenants were the Hastang family of Leamington Hastings (q.v.), Robert holding a quarter and a twentieth of a fee of Niel and of Roger de Mowbray in Hopsford in 1244-30 and 1242-3 respectively,<sup>61</sup> in addition to the half-fee in Hopsford and Nuthurst. The quarter and twentieth were extended at 60s. yearly in 1313 and 40s. in 1349.<sup>62</sup> In 1340 Thomas de Hastang and Elizabeth his wife settled the manor on themselves and their heirs,<sup>63</sup> but in 1358 Sir John Hastang confirmed a grant made the previous year by John de Lyons,<sup>64</sup> who had a life interest in the manor, to William de Catesby.<sup>65</sup> This led to a lawsuit in 1438, when Sir Humphrey Stafford, the grandson of Sir John de Hastang's granddaughter Maud, sued Robert Catesby for the manor.<sup>66</sup> The latter, who had settled it in tail male in 1405,<sup>67</sup> and his wife Lettice quit-claimed the manor to Sir Humphrey and his heirs in 1441, the extent being 5 messuages, a toft, 220 acres of land, 12 of meadow, and 6 of pasture.<sup>68</sup> The Stafford family retained Hopsford for about 70 years, except from 1493 to 1516 when it was in the hands of Sir William Vampage owing to Sir Humphrey Stafford II's attainder,<sup>69</sup> it was finally passed in 1517 by this Sir Humphrey and Margaret his wife to Sir Edward Belknap.<sup>70</sup> He in turn sold it the following year to Richard Wright of Hopsford and his son Humphrey for £312 3s. 9d.<sup>71</sup> When Richard Wright died 3 years

<sup>33</sup> *Lay Subs. R.* (Dugd. Soc.), 52.  
<sup>34</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1370-4, p. 271.  
<sup>35</sup> *Cal. Fine R.* 1369-77, p. 386; 1377-83, p. 262; 1383-91, p. 77.  
<sup>36</sup> *Cal. Cloz.* 1385-9, p. 299.  
<sup>37</sup> *Cal. Fine R.* 1383-91, p. 208.  
<sup>38</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1416-23, p. 415.  
<sup>39</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xviii), 2433.  
<sup>40</sup> *Ibid.* 2644.  
<sup>41</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII*, ii, 356. It is not clear how the Hospitaliers came to hold the manor, but between 1518 and 1529 there was a lawsuit regarding the detention of deeds of various Warwickshire manors, including Withybrook, belonging to Balsall commendatory: E. Chan. Proc. 388, no. 36.  
<sup>42</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), 50-109.  
<sup>43</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Hil. 16 Eliz.  
<sup>44</sup> *Ibid.* Hil. 36 Eliz.  
<sup>45</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations, Shire Hall, Warwick; Recov. R. Trin. 54 Geo.

III, ro. 365.  
<sup>46</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations; P.R.O. List.  
<sup>47</sup> Kelly, *Directory Warw.*  
<sup>48</sup> Feet of F. Div. Cos. Trin. 39, and Hil. 43 Eliz.; Recov. R. Trin. 39 Eliz. ro. 12. The elder Sir Francis Leigh was a grandson of Sir James Harrington.  
<sup>49</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccclxxii, 170.  
<sup>50</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Hil. 1, and East. 2 Chas. I.  
<sup>51</sup> *Ibid.* Hil. 22-3 Chas. II.  
<sup>52</sup> Recov. R. Hil. 10 Geo. II, ro. 313.  
<sup>53</sup> *Ibid.* East. 10 Anne, ro. 173; East. 54 Geo. III, ro. 395.  
<sup>54</sup> G. E. C. *Compl. Peerage* (2nd ed.) ix, 739-40.  
<sup>55</sup> P.R.O. Anct. Deeds, D. 511, 566, 635.  
<sup>56</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. 13 Hen. VI, 23.  
<sup>57</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* i, 337.

<sup>58</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* iv, 472 (p. 360).  
<sup>59</sup> *Ibid.* xi, 144 (p. 142); Chan. Inq. p.m. 1 Hen. IV, pt. 1, 716, and 1 Edw. IV, 46.  
<sup>60</sup> Cott. MS. Vitell. A.1, fol. 83; *Cal. Chart. R.* i, 352.  
<sup>61</sup> *Book of Fees*, 952, 1462. See also *Red Book of Exch.* (Rolls Ser.), 737.  
<sup>62</sup> *Cal. Cloz.* 1313-18, p. 279; 1346-9, p. 582.  
<sup>63</sup> Cott. F. (Dugd. Soc. xv), 1863.  
<sup>64</sup> He was recorded in 1428 as the former holder of a quarter-fee in Hopsford: *Feudal Aids*, v, 193.  
<sup>65</sup> Dugd. 217, quoting MSS. *penes* Sir Simon Clark, bart.  
<sup>66</sup> *Wm. Salt* See. n.s. iii, 130.  
<sup>67</sup> P.R.O. Anct. Deeds, A. 4161.  
<sup>68</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xviii), 2609.  
<sup>69</sup> Dugd. 218.  
<sup>70</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Trin. 9 Hen. VIII.  
<sup>71</sup> Dugd. 218 (Clark MSS.).



later the original Mowbray-Norfolk overlordship had been forgotten and the manor was stated to be held of the Abbot of Combe; Humphrey was then 32.<sup>72</sup> The Wright family continued to hold the manor till about the time Dugdale was writing his history;<sup>73</sup> Thomas Wright was granted free warren in 1616-17.<sup>74</sup> By 1647 it had come to Sir Simon Clark,<sup>75</sup> the antiquary and friend of Dugdale, whose third son Woodchurch Clark was dealing with it in 1662.<sup>76</sup> The Rev. Francis Bromley was lord of the manor in 1742,<sup>76a</sup> and the last mention of Hopsford as a manor is in 1765, when members of the Bromley family passed it to William Dadley.<sup>77</sup>



WRIGHT. *Sable a chevron engrailed or between three fleurs de lis argent.*

The Combe Abbey property in Hopsford was increased in 1290 by 15 acres of land from Henry Wyther,<sup>78</sup> and by 7s. rent from Richard Pacy and Pernell his wife in 1347.<sup>79</sup> Its value in 1535 is not separately recorded; the post-Dissolution grantee (1539) was Mary, Duchess of Richmond and Somerset.<sup>80</sup>

Two acres of woodland in Hopsford, with 2 mesuages and 3½ virgates of land in Withybrook, were in 1340 granted by Sir Thomas de Astley to the chantry in Astley church, later converted into a college of dean and canons.<sup>81</sup> Worth 13s. 4d. in 1535,<sup>82</sup> this estate was granted in 1546 to Henry, Marquess of Dorset, and Lady Frances his wife, the king's niece.<sup>83</sup>

The church of *ALL SAINTS*, east of *CHURCH* the village, stands in a small churchyard.

It consists of a chancel, nave, north and south aisles, north chapel, south porch, and a tower built into the north-west corner of the church. It was rebuilt in the 14th century when the aisles were added. The only evidence of an earlier church is a late-12th-century font. Late in the 15th century the tower was built, the aisle being widened to accommodate it, the chapel and clearstory added, and the chancel partly rebuilt. It was restored in 1821 and again in 1890.

The east wall of the chancel has been refaced with sandstone ashlar above a modern string-course at sill level, and the angle buttress rebuilt. It is lighted by a restored traceried window of five cinquefoil lights, probably a replica of one of the late 15th century. The roof is tiled and the gable has a modern coping with a cross finial. The eastern half of the south wall has also been refaced with ashlar and its buttresses rebuilt. It had a modern traceried window of three pointed lights and a square-headed traceried window of three trefoil lights, probably 16th-century. Between the windows is a narrow pointed door of one splay which stops on the splayed plinth. The south aisle, which has a hollow-splayed plinth, is built of light-coloured sandstone. Both angles have narrow buttresses of three stages with gabled heads. It is lighted by four traceried windows in deep splays, two on the south, one of three trefoil lights, the other of two, and one of three lights at each end, that at the west end being a modern replica; all have hood-moulds, the two-light with head-stops.

Between the windows on the south is a two-storied porch, now without its upper floor. It is paved with stone slabs, two of them with the matrices of brasses, and has a tiled roof. The entrance has a segmental moulded arch of two orders carried down to splayed stops; both jambs have been renewed. On each side is a traceried window of two trefoil lights under square heads; and a square opening in the gable originally lighted the upper floor. At the junction of the porch with the aisle wall on the west side are remains of a corbel for a stair turret to the parvise. The doorway has a richly moulded segmental-pointed head with the mouldings carried down to the threshold without stops.

The north and south walls of the nave have traceried clearstory windows of two trefoil lights in deep splays, three on the south, and two on the north, and on the east gable is the base of a bell-cote for a sanctus bell. The west wall of the nave, built of a mixture of red and light-coloured sandstone, shows the line of the earlier steep-pitched roof before the clearstory was added. It has a tall pointed traceried window of three trefoil lights with a hood-mould; the tracery and mullions are modern.

The tower, of light-coloured sandstone ashlar, is a low one rising in three stages undivided by string-courses and finished with a plain parapet. In the west wall there is a much-restored pointed doorway of two hollow splays, above it a moulded pointed traceried window of two trefoil lights, and a clock dial. The ringing-chamber is lighted by a single square-headed light on the east, and the belfry by a square-headed window of two trefoil ogee lights on each face. At the angle there is a diagonal buttress and one at right angles at the south-west corner, splayed at the side to accommodate the tower staircase, which is lighted by three loop-lights.

The north wall of the aisle and chapel, built of light-coloured sandstone ashlar partly refaced, is divided into four bays by buttresses in three stages and is lighted by three pointed traceried windows of three trefoil lights in deep splays with hood-moulds. The lower part of the east wall has no plinth and is built of alternate courses of rubble and ashlar with squared and coursed masonry above; it has a traceried window similar to those in the north wall.

The chancel (27 ft. 4 in. by 16 ft. 10 in.) has unplastered rubble walls, and a modern tiled floor. On the south side the window to the east has a modern pointed rear-arch and in the upper part of each light fragments of late-15th-century coloured glass. The doorway has a segmental-pointed rear-arch and a hood-mould with carved head-stops. The window to the west, which has a low sill and its west reveal splayed at a wide angle, replaces an earlier low-side one. The north side opens into the chapel with a four-centred arch, of two splays, on responds which repeat the inner order with moulded capitals and bases. In the centre of the east respond there is a moulded stone bracket. East of the arch are remains of a late-15th-century Easter Sepulchre, plastered over until it was uncovered during repairs in 1848. It is of considerable interest although all its projecting plinths, pinnacles, and

<sup>72</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), xxxviii, 30.

<sup>73</sup> Ibid. xi, 44; Feet of F. East. 3, and Mich. 30-31 Eliz.; Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccxxix, 140.

<sup>74</sup> Pat. 14 Jas. I, pt. 12, no. 6.

<sup>75</sup> Chan. Proc. 1613-1714, ccccv, 65.

<sup>76</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 14 Chas. II.

<sup>76a</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations.

<sup>77</sup> Feet of F. Warw. East. 5 Geo. III.

<sup>78</sup> Cal. Pat. 1281-92, p. 375; Chan.

Inq. a.q.d. xiv, 21.

<sup>79</sup> Cal. Pat. 1345-8, p. 421; Chan. Inq.

a.q.d. cclxxxiii, 5.

<sup>80</sup> L. and P. Hen. VIII, xiv (1), p. 595.

<sup>81</sup> Inq. a.q.d. cclvii, 2; Cal. Pat. 1338-

40, p. 520; 1343-5, p. 2.

<sup>82</sup> Valor Eccl. (Rec. Com.), iii, 61.

<sup>83</sup> L. and P. Hen. I, lxxv (1), 1537 (7).

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

canopy have been hacked away flush with the wall face. The tomb is represented by a plain trough and above it, on the back of the recess, are three carved figures, an angel and on either side what appears to be a soldier, all much mutilated. The sides and back of the recess have a diaper of pale blue leaves on a grey background, and on the soffit of the four-centred head are pale blue stars, also on a grey background. On the front below the trough there are a number of bays of arcading, coloured red. The roof is modern, with a match-boarded barrel-vaulted ceiling.

The nave (36 ft. by 16 ft. 9 in.) has a modern open roof and wood-block floor. The south arcade consists of three bays of pointed arches of two splayed orders on octagonal pillars, with moulded capitals, and half-octagon responds. The original moulded bases have been hacked off, except those of the east respond. The outer splayed order on both sides terminates on carved head-stops immediately above the capitals. In the west face of the east respond there is a narrow trefoil-niche, and the capital of the western pillar is decorated with paterae of rosettes. The north arcade is similar, but of two bays, and the head-stops occur only over the pillar. The chancel arch is similar to those of the arcades and at the junction of its respond with that of the north arcade there is a trefoil-headed niche. The clearstory windows have splayed reveals with flat heads, and the west window a pointed rear-arch with a hood-mould terminating on carved head-stops. Cut in one of the ashlar stones in the south wall of the tower is: 'Cristofar Watkin Philip Hartley Churchwardens Ano. Dom. 1632.' The pulpit is modern and placed on the north side of the chancel arch. Fixed on the east end of the south arcade wall there is a small brass figure (c. 1500) from a slab now used as a paving-stone in the porch.

The south aisle (35 ft. by 11 ft. 4 in.) has a modern lean-to roof. At the eastern end of the south wall is a trefoil-headed piscina with its projecting basin cut away, and at the western end a badly mutilated late-12th-century stone font with a circular basin on a shaft with a moulded base standing on a square pedestal; the shaft is modern. On the west side of the door there is a blocked square-headed doorway which led to the parvise staircase. At the east end of the arcade there are traces of a doorway to the rood-loft of the earlier church. There are fragments of late-15th-century glass in three of the windows, and at the east end an 18th-century chest lightly bound with iron.

The north aisle (23 ft. 6 in. by 12 ft. 6 in.) has a modern lean-to roof of low pitch.

The chapel (26 ft. by 12 ft. 6 in.) has lost its screen and is now separated from the aisle by a curtain for use as a vestry and organ chamber. Occupying the place

of the original altar against the east wall there is an altar tomb on one step, and in each of the angles on either side are moulded brackets; that on the north side has the remains of a canopy. The tomb is that of Sir Christopher Wright of Hopsford who died in 1602. On the ledger are the incised figures of a man and lady with a marginal inscription and above the tomb an alabaster panel with his arms and those of his alliances.<sup>83a</sup> There is an ambury in the south wall with a four-centred head cut through into the trough of the Easter Sepulchre.

The tower (10 ft. 8 in. by 10 ft.) is entered from the aisle by a chamfered round-headed doorway. In the south-west angle part of the respond of the destroyed bay of the arcade is visible, and adjoining it there is a square-headed door to the tower staircase.

Of the four bells three were recast by Barwell of Birmingham in 1907: these were (1) by Robert Newcombe, 1582, given by Sir Christopher Wright; (2) by Brian Eldridge, 1656; (3) by John Martin of Worcester, 1654. The fourth is by Newcombe of Leicester, 1612.<sup>84</sup>

The plate consists of a silver flagon, a silver chalice and cover, a silver paten the gift of Rev. R. P. Podmore, 1818, and two pewter plates.

The registers commence in 1653.

Withybrook is said to have originally ranked as a chapelry of Monks

Kirby,<sup>85</sup> though in 1205 Nicholas son of Liulf was, at least temporarily, successful in his claim to present to the church.<sup>86</sup> The abbot and convent of Combe came to an agreement whereby they received the tithes of their own lands in Withybrook for an annual payment of 2 marks silver to Monks Kirby Priory;<sup>87</sup> the patronage remained with the latter monastery. It was in the king's hands in 1342 owing to the war with France,<sup>88</sup> and in 1399, on the transfer of the Monks Kirby endowments to the Carthusian priory of Axholme (Lincs.), licence was given for its appropriation to this foundation.<sup>89</sup> But this seems not to have been effected, as in 1535 the rectory is noted as 'newly appropriated' and estimated to be worth £6 in the following year.<sup>90</sup> In 1533 the nomination to the vicarage was in the hands of the Archbishop of Canterbury, owing to the vacancy in the see of Coventry and Lichfield,<sup>91</sup> the first presentation having presumably been assigned to the bishop. Five years later the rectory and advowson were conveyed to the Crown,<sup>92</sup> being granted out in 1546 to Trinity College, Cambridge,<sup>93</sup> who still hold them; the living is now united again with Monks Kirby.

In 1291 the church was valued at £5 6s. 8d.,<sup>94</sup> and the vicarage in 1535 at £8 6s. 8d.,<sup>95</sup> received in cash from the prior and convent of Axholme.

<sup>83a</sup> Described in *Birm. Arch. Soc. Trans.*

lvii, 116. The long verse inscription, by his widow Jane (Purefoy), is given in Dugd. 216, where are also mentioned brass figures of Christopher Wren (1543) and his wife Christian, and an inscription to the Richard Wright who bought Hopsford (d. 15 [20]) and Elizabeth his wife; this last was

already missing in 1730.

<sup>84</sup> Tilley and Walters, *Church Bells of Warwick*, 265-6.

<sup>85</sup> Dugd. 215.

<sup>86</sup> *Curia Regis R.* iv, 1.

<sup>87</sup> Cott. MS. Vitell. A.I, fol. 73.

<sup>88</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1340-3, p. 368.

<sup>89</sup> *Ibid.* 1396-9, p. 583.

<sup>90</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 135.

<sup>91</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, vi, 1239.

<sup>92</sup> Feet of F. Div. Cos. East. 30 Hen. VIII.

<sup>93</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xxi (2), 648 (51).

<sup>94</sup> *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 241.

<sup>95</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 59.



WITHERBROOK CHURCH



WOLHAMCOTE CHURCH, *c.* 1820



WOLSTON CHURCH, *c.* 1820



## WOLFHAMCOTE

Acreeage: 3,855.

Population: 1911, 257; 1921, 233; 1931, 211.

The River Leam forms the eastern and northern boundaries of the parish, and at the north-eastern corner the Oxford Canal, which runs across the parish, is carried over the river by an aqueduct. Just below this point are the church<sup>1</sup> and Wolfhamcote Hall, but the centres of population are the three hamlets of Sawbridge,  $\frac{1}{2}$  miles west, Nethercote,  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile south-west of the church, and Flecknoe,  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile south of Nethercote. Sawbridge consists of a small group of 17th-century houses built of sandstone ashlar, one dated 1665, and a few timber-framed with thatched roofs. Most of them have been altered or partly rebuilt in brick but retain some of their original square-headed mullioned windows with hood-moulds. Manor Farm, dated 1654, is L-shaped in plan, with a large 19th-century addition. The south front still retains some original square-headed mullioned windows of five, three, and two lights; there are two three-light on the west, and on the north a two-light. The ground floor is stone-paved throughout and the ceiling beams moulded; on the upper floor they are stop-chamfered. A little to the south there is a stable built of red brick with stone quoins, dated 1708. Flecknoe is a small village of red-brick houses with tiled roofs and a few 17th-century cottages built of stone with square-headed mullioned windows and thatched roofs. The church of St. Mark is a small rectangular building of red and blue brick with a concrete floor and a slated roof with a small timber bell-cote at the west end. It consists of chancel, nave, vestry, and west porch and was erected in 1891. There is also a Methodist chapel dating from 1837. Flecknoe stands on a hill between 450 ft. and 540 ft., from which the ground falls steadily to about 270 ft. on the northern edge of the parish. It was presumably on the summit of this hill that the windmill stood which is mentioned as belonging to the manor of Flecknoe in 1587<sup>2</sup> and 1687.<sup>3</sup>

The southern part of the parish was inclosed under an Act of 1744,<sup>4</sup> affecting 1,690 acres,<sup>5</sup> and its effects are visible in the long, straight hedgerows radiating from Flecknoe. Another 1,800 acres, representing 44 yardlands,<sup>6</sup> were inclosed under an Act of 1757.<sup>7</sup>

There are no roads of importance, but the former L.N.E.R. line to Rugby runs through the parish from south to north and just below the Hall is crossed, almost at right angles, by the Daventry and Leamington branch of the former L.M.S.R. (earlier L.N.W.R.), on which is Flecknoe station,  $\frac{1}{2}$  miles north-west of Flecknoe village.

Besides the mill of Sawbridge (see below) there was a mill called 'Ketelesmulne' which, with its adjacent meadows, was granted in 1333 by Godfrey Halewey to Robert de Wilewey, rector of Wolfhamcote and

transferred by him to William de Peyto.<sup>8</sup> This same rector in 1307 had had a dispute concerning the overflow of the water from his pond on to the lands of Robert de Langley, lord of Wolfhamcote.<sup>9</sup>

In 1086 Turchil held two estates in **MANORS WOLFHAMCOTE**; the larger, rated at 4½ hides, which had been held before the Conquest by Aschil, he held in demesne,<sup>10</sup> while the other, rated at 1½ hides and ½ virgate, was held of him by four brothers who had been the tenants under the Confessor.<sup>11</sup> His son Siward de Arden is said to have given the whole to Lesceline daughter of Geoffrey de Clinton, who married Norman de Verdon.<sup>12</sup> Their descendant John de Verdon granted the manor to Walter de Langley and Alice his wife to hold as half a knight's fee, attending his court at Flecknoe twice yearly.<sup>13</sup> This was probably shortly before 1257, in which year Walter and Alice had a grant of free warren.<sup>14</sup> Alice survived her husband and in 1295 settled the manor on her younger son Robert, whose daughter Margaret married William de Peyto.<sup>15</sup> In that family it remained for 300 years. When Elizabeth de Burgh, widow of Theobald de Verdon, died in 1360 the half-fee held of her by William de Peyto passed to William de Ferrers, son of Theobald's daughter Isabel.<sup>16</sup> Sir John and William Peyto held of Lord Ferrers of Groby in 1388 and 1411 respectively;<sup>17</sup> in 1487 Godith, widow of Edward Peyto, claimed a third of the manor as dower;<sup>18</sup> their son John divided the manor between his three younger sons Edmund, Alexander, and Francis for their lives,<sup>19</sup> and they were still holding it when their elder brother John died on 20 December 1553, the reversion passing to his son Humphrey.<sup>20</sup> In 1613 Sir Edward Peyto sold the manor to Robert Clarke, who was already the tenant.<sup>21</sup> Thomas Clarke the elder and his wife Elizabeth and their son Thomas were dealing with it in 1652(-3).<sup>22</sup> John Clarke was lord of the manor between 1769 and 1784 and Thomas between 1796 and 1798.<sup>23</sup> It seems to have been divided between coheirresses, as in 1817 Thomas Clarke Mather and Sarah his wife conveyed one-sixth of the manor to Edmund Burton,<sup>24</sup> who probably acquired the other shares, as in 1820 he and five other members of the family, including Clerke Burton, were dealing with the manor,<sup>25</sup> of which his widow Elizabeth was lady in 1822.<sup>26</sup> In 1826 Henry Bradley and Elizabeth Jane his wife conveyed the manor of Wolfhamcote to Charles Tibbits.<sup>27</sup> Mary Isabella daughter and heir of Richard John Tibbits married the third Viscount Hood and was lady of the manor at her death in 1904.<sup>28</sup>



PEYTO. Barry argent and gules parted per pale indented and counterchanged.

<sup>1</sup> There are traces of the former village to the north of the church: *ex inf.* Mr. W. M. Beresford.

<sup>2</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Hil. 29 Eliz.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid. Mich. 3 Jas. II.

<sup>4</sup> 17 Geo. II. c. 16.

<sup>5</sup> Slater, *Engl. Peasantry*, 302.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> 30 Geo. II. c. 33.

<sup>8</sup> Loveday deeds, now at Warwick.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid. <sup>10</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* i, 318.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid. 320.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> *Cal. Chart. R.* i, 461.

<sup>14</sup> Dugd. 304.

<sup>15</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* x, 512.

<sup>16</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. 11 Ric. II. no. 26;

<sup>17</sup> Hen. IV. no. 27.

<sup>18</sup> De Banco R. Trin. 3 Hen. VII.

<sup>19</sup> m. 490.

<sup>20</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), lxviii, 153.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid. civ, 114.

<sup>22</sup> Dugd. 304.

<sup>23</sup> Dugd. 305; Feet of F. Warw. East.

<sup>24</sup> Jas. I.

<sup>25</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Hil. 1652; cf. ibid.

Trin. 1655.

<sup>26</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations.

<sup>27</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Trin. 57 Geo. III.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid. Hil. 1 Geo. IV.

<sup>29</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations.

<sup>30</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Trin. 7 Geo. IV.

<sup>31</sup> G. E. C. *Complete Peerage* (2nd ed.), vi, 570.

but the property was subsequently sold and the manor extinguished.

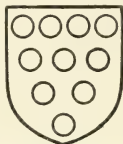
Before the Conquest the greater part of *FLECKNOE* was held by Alwin, or Æthelwine, father of Turchil;<sup>29</sup> 1 hide and  $\frac{1}{2}$  virgate of it descended to Turchil,<sup>30</sup> who also held  $\frac{1}{2}$  hides which had formerly been held by Edwin;<sup>31</sup> another 1½ hides Alwin sold to his brother Lewin,<sup>32</sup> or Leofwine, who in 1086 held a further 2 hides and  $\frac{1}{2}$  virgate, which he claimed to hold of the Bishop of Worcester, 'but the bishop failed in his plea, so Lewin is at the king's mercy' and is entered among the minor tenants-in-chief.<sup>33</sup> Although Bishop Wulfstan had failed in his plea the rights of the see must later have been established, as in 1208 half a knight's fee in Flecknoe was held by Nicholas de Verdun of Aitrop Hastang, who held of the bishop.<sup>34</sup> This half-fee can be traced back to 1166, when the bishop's return shows such an amount held by Aitrop Hastang, though the place is not named.<sup>35</sup> In 1459 the manor of Flecknoe was said to be held of the Bishop of Worcester,<sup>36</sup> as it still was in 1576<sup>37</sup> and in 1608.<sup>38</sup>

From Turchil the overlordship of part of a fee in Flecknoe came to the earls of Warwick, of whom Rohese de Verdon held three-quarter fee in Wolfhamcote and Flecknoe in 1235.<sup>39</sup> The Warwick overlordship is mentioned again in a list of about 1316.<sup>40</sup> A mesne lordship seems to have been held by Turchil's descendants, as in 1274 John de Verdon held half a fee, consisting of 2 ploughlands, here of Sir Thomas de Arderne, lord of Ruyton, by yearly render of a sparrowhawk.<sup>41</sup>

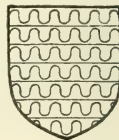
The dual overlordship resulted in the jurors at the inquest after the death of Elizabeth de Burgh in 1360 stating that the manor of Flecknoe was held of either the Earl of Warwick or the Bishop of Worcester, but of which they did not know.<sup>42</sup> There is a further complication introduced by the fact that in 1235 a half-fee in Flecknoe appears among the fees of Robert Musard.<sup>43</sup> No earlier or later reference to any Musard in this connexion is known. A mesne lordship was held by the Hastings family; in 1312 John de Hastings was seised of a knight's fee here,<sup>44</sup> as was his grandson Laurence de Hastings, Earl of Pembroke, in 1348,<sup>45</sup> and it figures again among the fees of the earl in 1375,<sup>46</sup> in each case held by the representative of the Verdons.

As already mentioned, Nicholas de Verdon was holding Flecknoe of Aitrop Hastang in 1208, and he held of Aitrop's successor Robert Hastang in 1221, when the Bishop of Worcester sued the latter for the

services due from a half-fee; Robert acknowledged that they were due but said that he could not distrain his tenant Nicholas to render them, so he surrendered his rights in the fee to the bishop.<sup>47</sup> In 1226 the bishop granted 3 ploughlands in Flecknoe to Nicholas de Verdon to hold by service of half a knight, Robert Hastang at the same time disclaiming any rights in the land.<sup>48</sup> Nicholas was succeeded by his daughter Rohese de Verdon, who held of the Earl of Warwick in 1235.<sup>49</sup> She married Theobald le Botiller but retained her maiden name, as did her son John de Verdon, who had a grant of free warren here in 1258<sup>50</sup> and died in 1274 seised of 2 ploughlands held of the Earl of Warwick.<sup>51</sup> At the death of his son Theobald in 1309 Flecknoe was described as a member of the manor of Brandon and consisting of a messuage and 50 acres of arable;<sup>52</sup> and in 1316 the hamlet was held for life by Walter Coyne, to whom it had been leased at a rent of 40s. by the younger Theobald de Verdon,<sup>53</sup> who died in that year, leaving three daughters by his first wife and a widow Elizabeth, previously wife of John de Burgh. The half-fee of Great Flecknoe was at this time 'held by the free tenants there',<sup>54</sup> but



SEE OF WORCESTER.  
Argent ten roundels  
gules.



FERRERS of Groby.  
Vairy or and gules.

the manor was assigned to Elizabeth de Burgh in dower, with reversion to Theobald's posthumous daughter Isabel who married Henry de Ferrers.<sup>55</sup> When Elizabeth died in 1360 the manor passed to her grandson William de Ferrers,<sup>56</sup> the half-fee, still held by the free tenants, reverting to Theobald's daughter Margery and her third husband John de Crophull,<sup>57</sup> after which no more is heard of it. William de Ferrers leased the manor to Peter West for life and died in 1370, when Hugh, rector of Ware, keeper of his seal, combined with two others to execute a forged release of the manor, by which it was conveyed to Thomas Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick.<sup>58</sup> It was, however, recovered by William's widow Margaret<sup>59</sup> and descended in the family of Ferrers of Groby<sup>60</sup> until 1614, when Sir John Ferrers gave it with his daughter Anne in marriage to Sir Simon Archer.<sup>61</sup> His grandson Andrew, in conjunction with his cousin Simon Archer and the latter's wife Elizabeth, who apparently had some right in the manor, sold it in 1687 to Thomas Reynolds.<sup>62</sup> By 1728 the manor was in the hands of Nicholas Masters,<sup>63</sup> who sold it in 1732 to John Blencowe.<sup>64</sup> He was lord of the manor between 1752 and 1768.<sup>65</sup> Later it came into the hands of Nicholls Raynsford, whose family were closely connected with the parish,<sup>66</sup> and he sold it in 1784 to Richard Tibbits,<sup>67</sup> who appears as lord between 1785

<sup>29</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* i, 278.

<sup>30</sup> *Ibid.* 321.

<sup>31</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>32</sup> *Ibid.* 342.

<sup>33</sup> *Ibid.* 303, 343.

<sup>34</sup> *Bk. of Fees*, 39.

<sup>35</sup> *Red Bk. of Exch.* 300.

<sup>36</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 37 *Hen. VI*, no. 34.

<sup>37</sup> *Ibid.* (Ser. 2), clxxiv, 62.

<sup>38</sup> *Add. MS.* 28564, fol. 51.

<sup>39</sup> *Bk. of Fees*, 507.

<sup>40</sup> *Add. MS.* 28024, fol. 103.

<sup>41</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ii, 78.

<sup>42</sup> *Ibid.* x, 508.

<sup>43</sup> *Bk. of Fees*, 510.

<sup>44</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, 234.

<sup>45</sup> *Ibid.* ix, 1183; *Cal. Close*, 1346-9, p. 582.

<sup>46</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 49 *Edw. III*, no. 70.

<sup>47</sup> *Roll of Testes in Eyre in . . . Warw.* (Selden Soc.), 458.

<sup>48</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xi), 376.

<sup>49</sup> *Bk. of Fees*, 507.

<sup>50</sup> *Cal. Chart. R.* ii, 12.

<sup>51</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ii, 78.

<sup>52</sup> *Ibid.* v, 187.

<sup>53</sup> *Ibid.* vi, 36.

<sup>54</sup> *Ibid.* p. 38.

<sup>55</sup> *Ibid.* vii, 498.

<sup>56</sup> *Ibid.* x, 508.

<sup>57</sup> *Ibid.* p. 513.

<sup>58</sup> *Cal. Inq. Misc.* iii, 816.

<sup>59</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>60</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 11 *Ric. II*, no. 26;

<sup>61</sup> *Ric. II*, no. 24; 23 *Hen. VI*, no. 33;

<sup>62</sup> *37 Hen. VI*, no. 34; (Ser. 2), xxvii, 90;

<sup>63</sup> *civ.* 113; clxxiv, 62.

<sup>64</sup> *Dugd.* 307.

<sup>65</sup> *Feet of F. Warw. Mich.* 3 *Jas. II*.

<sup>66</sup> *Ibid.* Trin. 2 *Geo. II*.

<sup>67</sup> *Ibid.* Mich. 6 *Geo. II*.

<sup>68</sup> *Gamekeepers' Deputations*.

<sup>69</sup> *Misc. Gen. et Her.* (3rd ser.), ii, 159.

<sup>70</sup> *Recov. R. East.* 24 *Geo. III*, ro. 261.

and 1798, as does Charles Tibbits in 1816 and 1828,<sup>68</sup> at which latter date he was also lord of Wolfhamcote (see above), with which this manor was no doubt united.

Rohese de Verdon gave to John FitzAlan, Earl of Arundel, with her daughter Maud in marriage 23 messuages and 20 virgates of land in villeinage in Flecknoe.<sup>69</sup> After his death in 1267 Maud married Richard de Mundeville, and in 1270 she released £20 of rents in Flecknoe to her son John FitzAlan, which at her request he gave to her stepson Richard de Mundeville and his wife Isabel to hold in tail, with contingent remainder to his own heirs.<sup>70</sup> His grandson Edmund, Earl of Arundel, granted these lands to John de Segrave and Christine his wife.<sup>71</sup> John's grandson, John de Segrave, was the first husband of Margaret, daughter of Earl Thomas of Norfolk, and apparently settled this estate on her, as at the death of her second husband Sir Walter, Lord Mauny, in 1372 he was holding the manor of Flecknoe in her right.<sup>72</sup> This manor passed, by the marriage of John de Segrave's daughter Elizabeth to John de Mowbray, to the Mowbray Dukes of Norfolk, and so to the Berkeleys.<sup>73</sup> Henry, Lord Berkeley, sold the manor in 1574 to Edward Boughton of Cawston,<sup>74</sup> of whom the tenants purchased their holdings,<sup>75</sup> so that any manorial rights were extinguished.<sup>76</sup>

In 1227 Nicholas de Verdon acknowledged<sup>77</sup> that he owed the services of half a knight to Robert Hastang in *LITTLE FLECKNOE*, and in 1316 Theobald de Verdon was mesne lord between John Hastang and William son of John Coyne,<sup>78</sup> of Western Coyne, in *LITTLE FLECKNOE*.<sup>79</sup> Theobald died shortly after this and the tenant of his half-fee was then John Coyne,<sup>80</sup> as he or his son<sup>81</sup> was in 1335, when the half-fee was assigned to Theobald's daughter Elizabeth and her husband Bartholomew de Burghersh.<sup>82</sup> It came, however, later to the Ferrers who held in Wolfhamcote and Flecknoe and was held of Thomas Ferrers at his death in January 1459 by 'the heir of Robert Cuny',<sup>83</sup> being then styled *NETHERCOTE*.<sup>84</sup> It remained in this family until 1539, when Robert Cuny the elder sold the manor of Little Flecknoe *alias* Nethercote to Roger Wigston.<sup>85</sup> Roger died in 1545, holding the manor of Sir Humphrey Ferrers as of his manor of Great Flecknoe,<sup>86</sup> and his son William in 1549 sold it to Elizabeth Onley and his son William Lee.<sup>87</sup> He died in 1592, his heir being his nephew William Watson,<sup>88</sup> who is said to have sold it to Thomas Wilcox and he to Robert Clarke,<sup>89</sup> who was dealing with it in 1600.<sup>90</sup> Clarke, as already mentioned, bought the manor of Wolfhamcote in 1613, including the fee simple of Nethercote,<sup>91</sup> which was presumably absorbed into it.

The estate of *SAWBIDGE*, rated at 5 hides, had

been granted to the Cambridgeshire abbey of Thorney before the compilation of the Domesday Survey (in which it is entered under Northamptonshire) and probably before the Conquest; in 1086 it was held of the abbey by Turchil.<sup>92</sup> His descendant Thomas de Arderne is said to have given land here to Thorney in the time of King John,<sup>93</sup> and by 1291 the abbey's property yielded £8 19s. 4d. yearly, including a ploughland worth 30s., fixed rents £4 12s., a mill worth 4s., and £1 6s. 8d. for commutation of work services.<sup>94</sup> At the time of the Dissolution the manor was let, with the water-mill of Ryton, at £20 to Thomas Andrews.<sup>95</sup> His lease was renewed by the Crown and was in operation when his son Thomas died in 1594, leaving a son Euseby, then aged 15.<sup>96</sup> Euseby subsequently, on the advice of his uncle, Sir Euseby Isham, sold the remainder of his lease to his tenants in order to provide portions for his brothers and sisters.<sup>97</sup> The manor is said to have been granted by the Crown in 1598 to Ranulph Crew and Richard Cartwright, who at once conveyed it to Robert Clarke and four other persons.<sup>98</sup> By 1652 Thomas Clarke was holding three-fifths of the manor of Sawbridge with his manor of Wolfhamcote.<sup>99</sup> This family continued to hold the estate, John Clarke dealing with 'the manor' of Sawbridge in 1792 and 1793,<sup>1</sup> after which time it was apparently merged in Wolfhamcote. The remaining portion of the original manor makes a solitary appearance in 1681 as one-sixth of the manor, being then in the hands of Thomas Curtis.<sup>2</sup>

Thomas Coyne of Upper Flecknoe in 1277 granted a rent of 30d. from land there to the nuns of Catesby Priory (Northants.) to support a light before the image of St. Anne in Catesby Church.<sup>3</sup> At the time of its dissolution the priory was receiving 6s. 8d. rent from half a yardland in Flecknoe which was in the tenure of Richard Cuney in 1553.<sup>4</sup>

The church of *ST. PETER* is situated *CHURCH* in open fields on the eastern boundary of the county, and stands in a small churchyard. It consists of chancel, nave, north chapel, north and south aisles, tower, and south porch. The present church was built in the 14th century, the tower in the west end of the north aisle late in the 15th century, at which time the clearstory was added, the steep-pitched nave roof being replaced with one of low pitch and the west end of the nave rebuilt, including the window and buttresses. It contains some interesting woodwork of the 14th century. The walls are constructed of coursed sandstone rubble with worked dressings, the tower in ashlar; the chancel roof is tiled; nave, south aisle, and porch lead-covered; and the north aisle roofed with corrugated iron sheets.

<sup>68</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations. Cf. Recov. R. East. 57 Geo. III, ro. 279.

<sup>69</sup> Cal. Inq. p.m. iv, 90.

<sup>70</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xi), 859.

<sup>71</sup> Cal. Inq. p.m. vi, 699.

<sup>72</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. 46 Edw. III, no. 38.

<sup>73</sup> Ibid. 1 Hen. IV, pt. 1, no. 713.

<sup>74</sup> Hen. VI, no. 431; 1 Edw. IV, no. 46.

<sup>75</sup> Ibid. (Ser. 2), xli, 37.

<sup>76</sup> Recov. R. Trin. 16 Eliz. ro. 127.

<sup>77</sup> Dugd. 307.

<sup>78</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xi), 392.

<sup>79</sup> A Richard Coyne held land in Little

Flecknoe early in the 13th century: Loveday deeds.

<sup>80</sup> Wm. Salt. Soc. ix, 60.

<sup>81</sup> Cal. Inq. p.m. vi, 38.

<sup>82</sup> John son of John Coyne of Flecknoe

was pardoned for the death of Geoffrey

Shuckburgh in 1327: Cal. Pat. 1327-30,

p. 55.

<sup>83</sup> Cal. Inq. p.m. vii, 496.

<sup>84</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. 37 Hen. VI, no. 34.

<sup>85</sup> William Coyne was styled 'lord of

Nethycote' in 1328: Loveday deeds.

<sup>86</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Trin. 31 Hen. VIII.

<sup>87</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), lix, 82.

<sup>88</sup> Feet of F. Warw. East. 3 Edw. VI.

<sup>89</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cxli, 135.

<sup>90</sup> Dugd. 308. Robert's wife Jane was

a Wilcox: Chan. Proc. (Ser. 1), Jas. I,

c. 25/48.

<sup>91</sup> Feet of F. Warw. East. 42 Eliz.

<sup>92</sup> Chan. Proc. (Ser. 1), Jas. I, c. 25/48.

<sup>93</sup> F.C.H. Northants. i, 419.

<sup>94</sup> Dugd. 308.

<sup>95</sup> Tax. Eccl. (Rec. Com.), 257.

<sup>96</sup> Mon. Bailiffs' Accts. (Dugd. Soc.),

129.

<sup>97</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cxli, 120.

<sup>98</sup> Chan. Proc. (Ser. 2), bde, 327,

no. 20. <sup>99</sup> Dugd. 308.

<sup>1</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Hil. 1652; cf.

ibid. Trin. 1655; Recov. R. Hil. 3-4

Jas. II, ro. 69.

<sup>2</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Trin. 32 Geo. III;

Trin. 33 Geo. III.

<sup>3</sup> Recov. R. East. 33 Chas. II, ro. 154.

Cf. Chan. Proc. (Ser. 1), Jas. I, H. 16/23;

Alice Curtys, widow.

<sup>4</sup> Cat. Anct. D. iii, B. 3656.

<sup>5</sup> Star Chamber Proc. Ph. and Mary,

631.

## A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

The east gable wall of the chancel has been refaced with ashlar and a modern pointed traceried five-light window inserted; below the window there is a large stone-built vault, the full width of the chancel, which is without an inscription. The south wall has been entirely refaced with modern ashlar, a modern doorway with a four-centred arch and a two-light square-headed window inserted; a similar three-light window has a modern head fitted to its original jambs. The east wall of the chapel has a restored pointed traceried three-light window of two moulded orders and a hood-mould with return ends. The north aisle and chapel have a low-pitched roof covered with corrugated iron sheets, and the windows, two each to the chapel and aisle, have modern, rough, pointed arches worked to a splay, the mullions being extended straight up to the arches. There is a plain, low parapet to the nave roof, on a moulded string, and two square-headed windows of two trefoil lights to the clearstory, one original with a hood-mould, the other has a modern head and no hood-mould.

Built into the west end of the north aisle is a squat tower in three stages, divided by a string-course between the second and third stages, and finished with a battlemented parapet. It is built of ashlar with a diagonal buttress at the south-west angle terminating just below the string-course in a series of weathered stages; and there are similar buttresses at right angles to the west and north walls. On the north face, the belfry window has a single pointed light with a hood-mould, and below is a narrow loop-light with a pointed head. On the west side there is a pair of windows and a loop-light, and to the ground floor a pointed window which has a hood-mould without stops. The south aisle is lighted on the east by a moulded pointed window of three trefoil ogee lights, the lower part of the lights blocked and plastered over. The south side has two similar windows, with a later sloping buttress between them, and the clearstory three two-light windows similar to the original one on the north. The porch has a pointed entrance of two moulded orders, continued down the jambs, and a hood-mould with defaced stops. It has a roof of low pitch finishing on a hollow-moulded eaves-course decorated with paterae, and at the apex of the gable there is a base for a finial; the roof timbers are moulded, probably dating from the 15th century. It has ogee-headed windows on both sides, now blocked up; the doorway has a hollow-splayed pointed inner arch, with a moulded outer order having a segmental pointed arch, the mouldings being continued to the ground without stops. The west end of the nave, rebuilt in the 15th century in ashlar, has a buttress similar to that to the tower, but leaving evidence of the earlier one a little to the south. It is lighted by a window of four cinquefoil lights with a hollow-moulded four-centred head, but its hood-mould has been destroyed, leaving only the head stops.

The chancel (37 ft. 5 in. by 16 ft. 11 in.) is paved with stone, mostly memorial slabs of the 18th century, rising in three stages of one step. The walls have been rendered with cement and lined out in imitation of ashlar. It has a steep-pitched king-post roof consisting of three trusses, the tie-beams stop-chamfered with central square sunk carved panels on the undersides, shaped struts, stop-chamfered purlins, and shaped wind-braces, probably 14th-century, covered with modern boarding and tiles. In the floor is a brass tablet to

Thomas Benyon, died 1687, and on the walls five 19th-century memorials to the Tibbits family, one of them to Samuel Tibbits Hood, Viscount Hood, died 1846. The modern east window has a moulded pointed rear-arch supported on small attached shafts with moulded capitals and bases. Opening into the chapel is an arcade of two bays of pointed arches of two splayed orders supported on an octagonal pillar with moulded capitals and bases and half-round moulded corbels; a continuous hood-moulding is carried over the arches without stops at the ends. The altar and rails are modern.

The nave (45 ft. 4 in. by 21 ft. 7 in.) is paved in a mixture of stone, concrete, and brick, the walls are plastered and it has a modern roof of low pitch with plain beams and wall-posts resting on timber corbels. The south arcade consists of three bays of pointed arches of two splayed orders, supported on octagonal pillars with moulded capitals and bases and half-octagon responds with capitals and bases to the inner order. The north arcade is similar, but its western bay was built up to form the south wall of the tower in the 15th century. The chancel arch is pointed, with two splays to the nave and one to the chancel, supported on moulded corbels with carved heads; above it is a painted coat of arms of Anne, dated 1702. The 15th-century window has a hollow-moulded segmental rear-arch and jambs. On the north side of the chancel arch there is an octagonal pulpit with inlaid panels dated 1790, supported on a moulded octagonal stem; and by the west bay of the south arcade there is a plain circular stone font, slightly concave and tapered, with a deep lead-lined basin.

The south aisle (46 ft. 7 in. by 10 ft. 6 in.) has a similar floor to the nave, a modern low-pitched roof, and plastered walls. On the north side of the east window there is a stone bracket, splayed on the underside, and in the south wall a piscina with a pointed arch of one splay and a mutilated basin. All the windows have splayed reveals with stop-chamfered pointed rear-arches.

The north aisle (29 ft. 9 in. by 12 ft.) has floor, walls, and roof as on the south. The tower arch is pointed, of two splayed orders on square jambs with impost mouldings. Separating the aisle from the chapel is a 14th-century carved oak screen having a door in the centre, with a moulded frame and cinquefoil traceried head. On each side there are two open panels formed by slender turned balusters resting on a plain rail and supporting trefoiled heads with plain panels below.

The north chapel (35 ft. 5 in. by 14 ft. 3 in.) has a stone-paved floor and at the east end a platform 1 ft. 7 in. high. At the east end of the north wall there is an aumbry, rebated for a door, and opposite, in the south wall, an ogee-headed piscina with a plain circular basin. The south-west corner is occupied by a large vault, 2 ft. high, dated 1830, and on the south wall there is a painted board giving a list of deaths in the Clerke family from John Clerke, first of the family to dwell in Wolfhamcote, 1537, to the last male heir who died in 1800.

The tower (11 ft. by 10 ft. 3 in.) is paved with stone and the walls are left unplastered.

There are in all eleven 14th-century benches of varying length with moulded top rails, plain panelled backs, some with vertical boarding, the others with long panels in one piece. One in the chancel has one end carved with two trefoiled panels with rosettes



above but left unfinished, although the design is marked out ready for carving.

The plate consists of a silver chalice and cover of 1677, a plated flagon, and a plated paten.

Of the bells the earliest is probably by John Sturdy of London, c. 1430; the other is by Pack and Chapman, 1780.<sup>5</sup>

The registers begin in 1558.

A priest, implying a church, is *ADFOVSON* mentioned in the Domesday description of Turchil's estate of Wolfhamcote,<sup>6</sup> and the advowson passed with the manor to the family of Langley, Robert de Langley conveying it in 1315 to John de Langley,<sup>7</sup> from whom it descended<sup>8</sup> to Joan, daughter of Geoffrey de Langley, who in 1359, being then aged 17, was wife of John de Cherleton.<sup>9</sup> In 1365 Joan and her second husband Sir John de Trillowe sold it to Thomas Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, and Thomas his son,<sup>10</sup> and Sir John Peyto released to the earl his interest in the church.<sup>11</sup> In 1385 Thomas, Earl of Warwick, was licensed to alienate the advowson to the Collegiate Church of St. Mary at Warwick.<sup>12</sup> The rectory, which was valued then, and in 1291, at £16 13s. 4d., was appropriated to the college in 1395 by Bishop Richard Scrope.<sup>13</sup> In 1535 the rectory was farmed at £38, out of which £13 6s. 8d.

was paid to the vicar for his stipend.<sup>14</sup> After the suppression of the college the advowson remained with the Crown until 1584 when Queen Elizabeth granted it to Sir Christopher Hatton.<sup>15</sup> He died in 1592 seised of the rectory and advowson,<sup>16</sup> which his son Sir William Hatton conveyed in 1595 to Peter Houghton and Edward Dodge.<sup>17</sup> They may have been acting for Thomas Spencer who was patron from 1596 to 1606.<sup>18</sup> Robert Raynsford of Staverton, Northants., presented in 1621<sup>19</sup> and died seised of the rectory and advowson in 1629<sup>20</sup> and they descended in this family until at least 1776, when Justinian Raynsford presented.<sup>21</sup> Richard Tibbits was patron in 1794<sup>22</sup> and it remained in this family, passing with the manor to Viscount Hood. On the sale of the estate the advowson was bought by G. S. Thompson.

An agreement was made on 5 November 1404 that the inhabitants of Wolfhamcote living near Flecknoe might have a chaplain of their own, but he should not administer the sacraments without special leave of the college.<sup>23</sup> Earlier, in 1360, William de Peyto had been licensed to have a chaplain celebrating in his oratory of Flecknoe.<sup>24</sup> According to Dugdale there were in his time 'decayed chappells' in Flecknoe, Nethercote, and Sawbridge;<sup>25</sup> if so, they were probably manorial chapels.

## WOLSTON

Acresage:

Wolston, 2,810. Brandon and Bretford, 1,988.

Population:

Wolston: 1911, 879; 1921, 962; 1931, 918.

Brandon and Bretford: 1911, 398; 1921, 412; 1931, 508.

The parish of Wolston originally included Stretton-on-Dunsmore and Princethorpe, in the south, but these were constituted a separate parish in 1696.<sup>1</sup> The present parish, which measures roughly 4 miles from east to west with a depth of 3 miles, is divided into two parts by the River Avon, on the left bank of which lies the village of Wolston, stretching southwards along a tributary of the Avon to a point where the road running south to Daventry meets several other small roads. On the other side of the Avon, crossed by a bridge at this point, are the extensive earthworks that mark the site of Brandon Castle,<sup>2</sup> built in the 12th century and long the seat of the Verdon family.<sup>3</sup> It is said to have been 'pulled down' by the baronial troops from Kenilworth Castle in 1265 because John de Verdon was an active supporter of the king;<sup>4</sup> but, if so, it must have been repaired, as in 1279 Theobald de Verdon was returned as holding a castle and a park at Brandon,<sup>5</sup> and the castle was still used as a residence in 1309,<sup>6</sup> but how much later it continued so to function is not known. A

little north of the earthworks is the hamlet of Brandon, on the eastern edge of the extensive grounds of Brandon House. Half a mile north-east of Wolston village, passing the site of Wolston Priory, is the small hamlet of Marston.

The parish is crossed from east to west by the Rugby-Birmingham branch of the former L.M.S. Railway, running close to Marston and having a station just south of Brandon House. The Roman<sup>7</sup> Fosse Way runs through the parish from south-west to north-east and must have crossed the Avon at, or very close to, the present Bretford Bridge. This bridge is mentioned in 1279, and in 1653, when it was in great decay, was repaired at the cost of the county.<sup>8</sup> The road across it leads to the hamlet of Bretford. For this place, convenient as lying on the Fosse Way and close to the river, John de Verdon obtained a grant of a market, to be held on Tuesdays, in 1227;<sup>9</sup> and here, on the Fosse Way, he set up his gallows.<sup>10</sup> There was a windmill at Bretford in 1279,<sup>11</sup> and it is again referred to in 1360.<sup>12</sup>

In 1086 a mill worth 6s. 4d. yearly is recorded at Wolston<sup>13</sup> and one worth 26d. at Brandon.<sup>14</sup> The former may have been Marston mill, which Richard de Frevill gave to Combe Abbey<sup>15</sup> late in the 12th century. It is referred to again in 1279, when Theobald de Verdon was said to have appropriated fishing

minority of Bertram de Verdon: *Pipe R.*

*Soc. N.S.* viii, 198. <sup>4</sup> Dugd. 44.

<sup>5</sup> Exch. K.R. Misc. Bks. 15, fol. 10 v.

<sup>6</sup> Cal. Inq. p.m. v, 187.

<sup>7</sup> Traces of an early, probably late-Bronze-Age, settlement have been found: *Birm. Arch. Soc. Trans.* lxx, 143.

<sup>8</sup> *Warw. Co. Recs.* iii, 175, 191.

<sup>9</sup> Cal. Chart. R. i, 58.

<sup>10</sup> *Rot. Hundr.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 228;

*Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 780.

<sup>11</sup> Exch. K.R. Misc. Bks. 15, fol. 11 v.

<sup>12</sup> Cal. Inq. p.m. x, p. 508.

<sup>13</sup> *F.C.H. Warw.* i, 307.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid. 323.

<sup>15</sup> Cott. MS. Vitell. A. 1, fol. 57 v.

<sup>5</sup> Tilley and Walters, *Church Bells of Warw.* 266.

<sup>6</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* i, 318.

<sup>7</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xv), 1427.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid. 1610, 1692.

<sup>9</sup> Cal. Fine R. vii, 93.

<sup>10</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xviii), 2126.

<sup>11</sup> Exch. K.R. Misc. Bks. 22, fol. 164.

<sup>12</sup> Cal. Pat. 1381-5, p. 580. Cf. ibid.

1396-9, p. 270. *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 242.

<sup>13</sup> Dugd. 305. The dean and canons were to pay the vicar 20 marks stipend, and he had a manse, and also the tithes of hay in Meresich from the tenants of Sawbridge: Exch. K. R. Misc. Bks. 22,

fol. 165 v.

<sup>14</sup> *Valer Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 83; *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xiii (1), 1250.

<sup>15</sup> Pat. R. 28 Eliz. pt. 2.

<sup>16</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), ccxxxii, 82.

<sup>17</sup> Feet of F. Div. Cos. East. 37 Eliz.

<sup>18</sup> Dugd. 305.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), ccccl, 77.

<sup>21</sup> Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.). <sup>22</sup> Ibid.

<sup>23</sup> Exch. K. R. Misc. Bks. 22, fol. 165 v.

<sup>24</sup> *Wm. Salt Soc.* N.B. viii, 6.

<sup>25</sup> Dugd. 304.

<sup>1</sup> Private Acts 7 & 8 Wm. III, c. 37.

<sup>2</sup> *V.C.H. Warw.* i, 359.

<sup>3</sup> It was garrisoned in 1195, during the

rights in the Avon between Bretford Bridge and the mill of Marston,<sup>16</sup> or 'Meruines melne' as it is called in another entry.<sup>17</sup> At the same date Theobald had a water-mill at Brandon.<sup>18</sup> This seems to have been the 'mill of Stratton which is called Perimulne' which was given to Combe Abbey by Robert de Chetwode and Sybil his wife, with the whole suit of his men of Wolston and Marston.<sup>19</sup> Its site is indicated by a charter of Nicholas son of Bertram de Verdon, of the early 13th century, by which he gave permission to the monks to repair the breaches (*breccas*) of the mill-pond of Perimulne, whereof 'one of the breaches was between the ditch of my castle of Brandon and my meadow of Sprowsam and the other was at the old pond-bays (*baia*s)', with leave to carry earth across his land.<sup>20</sup> Just west of Brandon Bridge there is a sluice and a water-lead which originally supplied the moat of the castle, near whose south-western angle it expands into a pond and then continues to re-enter the Avon where Wolston Mill still stands. About the same time, in 1227, the abbot agreed to hold Perimulne of Robert de Chetwode and Sybil and her heirs by a rent of 3s. and to make a bridge over the mill-pond near the old ford, for the carriage of their hay and the driving of their cattle.<sup>21</sup> Under Robert's son William de Chetwode 'the mill of Perie' was charged with a yearly payment of 20s. to the Staffordshire abbey of Haughmond,<sup>22</sup> to which abbey Guy le Strange and Mary had confirmed 'the mill of Stretton which is on the Avon'.<sup>23</sup> No later connexion of the mill with Combe is known and, as already stated, it seems to have come to the Verdons by 1279. Nicholas, son and heir of John Bacon of Wolston, and Margaret his wife were dealing with two mills and fishing rights in the Avon at Brandon in 1423,<sup>24</sup> and in 1605 Nicholas Wentworth bought Perrie Mill from Edward Ferrers and Francis Phillips.<sup>25</sup> His son Sir Peter bought the manor of Wolston (see below), and in 1699 there were two water-mills attached to the manors of Wolston and Marston.<sup>26</sup>

The parish appears to have been inclosed in 1692.<sup>27</sup> Tradition relates that in August 1642 King Charles I, on his way from Leicestershire to Coventry, stopped and had lunch under an oak tree near the Fosse Way, the site of which is still called Charles Oak Ground, or Kington Close.<sup>28</sup>

The village is practically confined to the main street, and most of the houses are built of red brick with tiled roofs, dating from about the end of the 18th century. On the west side of the street there is a pleasing mid-18th-century red brick house, typical of the period, with a modillioned cornice and tiled roof.

Wolston Bridge, over the Avon, is a private bridge belonging to the destroyed manor-house, west of the church. It is 13 ft. wide between the parapets, built of vermiculated sandstone ashlar, and is splayed in a slight curve at each end. It has a wide central span, which has a moulded segmental arch with a keystone flanked by pedimented coved niches. Both approaches have small dummy spans with moulded segmental arches filled in with plain ashlar. Over the central arch and the two niches, and at each end, there are panelled piers on a square string-course, which have lost their cappings. These piers are all that remain of the original parapets,

now replaced with red brickwork. There are no cutwaters and the elevations on both sides are identical.

Wolston Priory, east of the village, is a much restored and modernized 16th-century house of considerable size. It has two stories and an attic and consists of a main block, west wing, and a narrow east wing which extends across the end of the main block forming north and south porches. It faces south and the main block appears to have been extended on the north, the upper story being timber-framed, probably dating from the 17th century. All the windows are ovolo-moulded with square heads. The south front is of red sandstone ashlar with light-coloured dressings; the other fronts are of small squared and coursed limestone with a plinth and dressings of red sandstone. At the level of the first-floor window heads there is a moulded string-course which forms a hood-moulding to the windows. The west wing is gabled, with moulded finials at the apex and on the skewbacks; it is lighted by a four-light transomed window on the ground floor with three-light windows above to the first floor and attic. The main block has a tall central gabled dormer with finials and, below, four-light windows to the first and ground floors, the latter transomed, on either side there are two-light windows to both floors. The porch has a similar gable to the dormer, two-light windows to the upper floors, and a late-15th-century entrance arch with a four-centred moulded arch resting on moulded capitals, the mouldings being continued down the jambs to splayed stops. The soffit of the arch and the jambs are panelled, and it has a hood-mould with large, moulded, square stops. The doorway has a moulded four-centred arch under a square head with sunk spandrels, and is fitted with a 16th-century oak door of vertical panels. Against the porch is a one-story building, mostly modern, used as a garage. The doors have been cut through the original kitchen fire-place, which was 10 ft. wide, leaving the flue undisturbed and preserving the original stone paving with a shallow gutter down the centre. The presence of this kitchen suggests, as does the position of the porch, that there was an earlier east wing. The roofs have been retiled and the brick chimneys, set diagonally, rebuilt. The west front resembles the south, but with hood-moulds to the ground-floor windows instead of a string-course. It has a square-headed doorway near the centre with its hood cut away. The north front has a doorway to the porch, with a four-centred head similar to the south, but combined with a two-light window with a hood-mould as a fanlight, and above it two two-light windows, as on the south. On either side of a central chimney-stack are the gabled ends of the timber-framed added story, lighted on the east side by a five-light oak-framed window, and below it there is a six-light window, with a label moulding, to the first floor.

Internally the original plan has been obscured by alterations, but some of the original timber-framed partitions remain; also six original stone chimney-pieces, practically all the same design, with flat moulded heads, the mouldings carried down the jambs to splayed stops. The doorway to the top floor of the porch is an original one with a stop-chamfered four-centred head and fitted with a 17th-century counterboarded door.

<sup>16</sup> Exch. K.R. Misc. Bks. 15, fol. 11 v.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid. fol. 11.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid. fol. 10 v.

<sup>19</sup> Cott. MS. Vitell. A. 1, fol. 55.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid. <sup>21</sup> Ibid. <sup>22</sup> Ibid. fol. 56.

<sup>23</sup> Mon. Angl. vi, 109.

<sup>24</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xviii), 2529.

<sup>25</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccxxiii, 46.

<sup>26</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 11 Wm. III.

<sup>27</sup> Glebe terrier of 1698 (at Warwick), ex inf. M. W. Beresford.

<sup>28</sup> Ex inf. C. R. Wilcox.

Painted on the sloping ceiling of one of the attics there is an inscription in black letters, only partly legible: 'I goe to bed as to my . . . . . knows when . . . . . Lord . . . . . thou with me . . . . . take Decem. 1640.' In the present kitchen, formerly a cellar, there is a piscina built into the wall about 6 ft. above the floor; it is bowl-shaped with a circular basin. In the adjoining pantry, built into an angle, there is a corbel carved with a grotesque mask. These and possibly the entrance arch to the porch may have come from the priory.

It was at the Priory, then owned by Robert Wigston, that John Penry in 1589 set up his press and printed some of the most famous of his series of 'Martin Marprelate' tracts, attacking episcopal government of the Church; for which he was hanged.<sup>28a</sup>

The 5-hide vill of **WOLSTON**, which **MANORS** before the Conquest had been held by

Ailmund, was in 1086 among the estates of Roger, Earl of Shrewsbury, of whom it was held by Rainald de Baileul.<sup>29</sup> He must have enfeoffed Hubert Baldran, who between 1086 and 1094, with the consent of his wife Alice, granted the church and 2 hides of land here to the Norman abbey of St. Pierre-sur-Dives, his gift being confirmed by Rainald de Baileul and Amilia his wife and by Earl Roger.<sup>30</sup> Hubert's daughter and heir Sybil, as lady of Wolston, confirmed the grant between 1161 and 1170, and at the same time, with her husband Roger de Frevill, gave the land lying between the monks' court and the brook running through the vill, and pasture rights.<sup>31</sup> They had a son Richard, whose heirs were his sisters Agatha, wife first of Hamon Lestrang and secondly of Geoffrey de Turvill, and Sybil, wife of Robert de Chetwode.<sup>32</sup> Hamon and Agatha confirmed to Kenilworth Priory their parents' gift of 4 virgates, each of 22 acres, in Wolston,<sup>33</sup> and she and her sister in 1242 held a knight's fee in Wolston of John FitzAlan,<sup>34</sup> the representative of Earl Roger. Agatha daughter of Hamon Lestrang had a son Richard,<sup>35</sup> of whom no more is heard. The elder Agatha in 1237 had a grant of exemption from suits of courts and hundreds for herself and her men of Wolston, Merston, and Brandon, at the request of her son Geoffrey de Turvill, Archdeacon of Dublin.<sup>36</sup> She, who must have died shortly after this date, had two other sons, Robert, who died in 1237,<sup>37</sup> and Hamon.<sup>38</sup> In 1240 after the death of John FitzAlan the dower assigned to his widow Hawise included 1 knight's fee held by Hamon de Turvill and another held by the heirs of Ralph Lestrang.<sup>39</sup> Sir Richard de Turvill, described as of Wolston in 1309,<sup>40</sup> was discharged from the office of coroner in 1314 as infirm,<sup>41</sup> and probably died about that time, as Robert de Turvill was lord of Wolston in 1316.<sup>42</sup> His successor John in 1326 entailed this manor on himself and his wife Margaret,<sup>43</sup> with contingent remainder to Thomas

Ferrers, her father,<sup>44</sup> and his heirs. John Turvill seems to have died between 1353 and 1360 and to have been succeeded by his eldest son Thomas.<sup>45</sup> In 1368 the manor was conveyed by trustees to Robert son of John, son of John Turvill,<sup>46</sup> apparently younger brother of Thomas. It is next found in 1387 being conveyed by Sir William Wanton and Ismania his wife to Sir William Bagot and William Glym,<sup>47</sup> and as the warranty was against her heirs Ismania was probably the representative of the Turvills. Glym and others in 1418 gave a life-interest in the manor, then held of the Duke of Norfolk, to Thomas Stafford,<sup>48</sup> who had married Bagot's daughter Isabel.<sup>49</sup> Stafford sold it to Kenilworth Priory without obtaining licence to do so and it was therefore seized into the king's hands and in 1428 was committed to John Verney, clerk, and John Throckmorton for 12 years at a rent of £12.<sup>50</sup> The manor having thus passed away from the descendants of John Turvill, Sir Edward Grey in 1445 claimed that under the settlement of 1326 it should come to his wife Elizabeth as heir of Thomas Ferrers;<sup>51</sup> and in 1446 he and his wife conveyed it to trustees;<sup>52</sup> there is, however, no later connexion with the Greys, Lords Ferrers of Groby, and the whole transaction may have been an attempt to assert an unfounded claim.

The manor of Wolston had come into the hands of Nicholas Metley, a lawyer, by 1437, when he died, leaving it for life to his wife Joan (who afterwards married Richard Hotot) with reversion to his daughter Margaret.<sup>53</sup> She married John Hugford, who survived her and died in December 1485, holding the manor, valued at 6 marks, from the Earl of Arundel. Their heirs were their daughters Alice and Anne, and John Beaufoe, son of an elder daughter Joan, then aged 2.<sup>54</sup> Richard Cotes, who married Alice, was said to be holding the whole manor at his death in 1504,<sup>55</sup> and in 1512, when a partition of the estates was made,<sup>56</sup> it was assigned to his son John Cotes, who exchanged it to Sir Edward Belknap.<sup>57</sup> He died in 1521 and left it to his sister Alice and her husband William Shelley,<sup>58</sup> whose son John Shelley of Michelgrove (Sussex) died seised thereof in 1550.<sup>59</sup> On the attainder of John's son William in 1582 the manor passed to his nephew, Sir John Shelley, who in 1612 sold it to George Warner.<sup>60</sup> The latter sold to Sir Peter Wentworth in 1650.<sup>61</sup> By 1691 the advowson, and presumably the manor, was in the hands of Fisher Dilke *alias* Wentworth,<sup>62</sup> who had married Sybil daughter of Nicholas Wentworth.<sup>63</sup> His son Samuel Dilke in 1699 made a conveyance of the manor,<sup>64</sup> perhaps for sale or mortgage



TURVILL. Gules a chevron wavy between three molets argent.

<sup>28a</sup> *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

<sup>29</sup> *P.C.H. Warw.* i, 307.

<sup>30</sup> *Cal. Docs. Franc.* 202.

<sup>31</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>32</sup> *Dugd.* 34; *Cott. MS. Vitell. A. 1.* fol. 57 v.

<sup>33</sup> *Harl. MS.* 3650, fol. 29 v.

<sup>34</sup> *Bk. of Fees*, 950.

<sup>35</sup> *Cott. MS. Vitell. A. 1.* fol. 56.

<sup>36</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1232-46, p. 198.

<sup>37</sup> *Ibid.* pp. 181, 196, 230.

<sup>38</sup> *Cal. Close*, 1247-58, p. 68.

<sup>39</sup> *Ibid.* 1237-42, p. 199.

<sup>40</sup> *L. Moor, Knights of Edw. I* (Harl. Soc. lxxiv), 61.

<sup>41</sup> *Cal. Close*, 1313-18, p. 126.

<sup>42</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xv), 1629.

<sup>43</sup> *De Banco R. Mich.* 24 Hen. VI, m. 332.

<sup>44</sup> *Dugd.* 34, 46. This John was probably son of the John mentioned in 1326.

<sup>45</sup> *Anct. D.* (P.R.O.), D. 11123.

<sup>46</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xviii), 2304.

<sup>47</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 4 Hen. VI, no. 18.

<sup>48</sup> *Dugd.* 34.

<sup>49</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1422-9, p. 480.

<sup>50</sup> *De Banco R. Mich.* 24 Hen. VI, m. 312.

<sup>51</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xviii), 2630.

<sup>52</sup> *Dugd.* 35.

<sup>53</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII.* i, 136.

<sup>54</sup> *Ibid.* ii, 913.

<sup>55</sup> *Close R.* 4 Hen. VIII, pt. 4.

<sup>56</sup> *Dugd.* 15; *Add. Chart.* 42391.

<sup>57</sup> *Ibid.*; *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), xxxvi,

69; *Early Chan. Proc. bde.* 579, no. 28.

<sup>58</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), xciv, 53.

<sup>59</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. 10 Jas. I.

<sup>60</sup> *Ibid.* Hil. 1649.

<sup>61</sup> *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.).

<sup>62</sup> *Plittin. of Warw.* 1682 (Harl. Soc.),

42.

<sup>63</sup> *Feet of F.* Warw. Mich. 11 Wm. III.

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

to John Andrews, who was patron in 1706.<sup>65</sup> It was bought in 1712 by Letitia Pinchin, who died in 1713,<sup>66</sup> and passed to her son Charles Pinchin and on his death to his sisters; of whom Letitia married John Wilcox of Brandon. He, who died in 1732, is said to have been lord of the manor of Wolston,<sup>67</sup> but in 1740 his widow and her sister Hannah Pinchin sold it to Susannah Hubert of Wasperton, widow. About 1766 the estate was bought by General George Scott (an illegitimate son of the Duke of Buccleuch). His estate was sold (under the will of the 4th Duke of Buccleuch)<sup>68</sup> to pay his debts and was bought by William Wilcox. On the death of his grandson, Charles Walford Wilcox, in 1926 the estates passed to his daughter Mary Hilda wife of Eric Alfred Hoffgaard, and she later made them over to her son Charles Robert Eric Walford Hoffgaard, who has now taken the name of Wilcox.<sup>69</sup>

Sybil, Agatha's sister, had married Robert de Chetwode and in 1226 they granted to the abbey of Combe a mill called 'Perimulne' in Stratton, to which their men of Wolston and Merston were bound to take their corn.<sup>70</sup> They had a son Ralph,<sup>71</sup> who died without issue, and another son William,<sup>72</sup> who had two daughters, Agnes who married William le Breton,<sup>73</sup> and Beatrice who married Thomas son of William de Wynterton.<sup>74</sup> William le Breton left a son Guy, the picture of whose wife Alice was in a window in Wolston church in Dugdale's time,<sup>75</sup> and his son (or perhaps grandson) Sir William was given licence to have divine service celebrated in his mansion of Wolston in 1360.<sup>76</sup> The estate seems to have constituted the manor of **MARSTON**, which Guy Breton held in 1404.<sup>77</sup> He appears to have left coheirresses, as in 1419 one moiety of the manor was transferred to Thomas Wodelowe and Margaret his wife by Richard Quatermaynes of London, and the other moiety by John Boteler of Wolverton.<sup>78</sup> Thomas held this as half a knight's fee in 1431,<sup>79</sup> but soon afterwards it was acquired by Nicholas Metley and since then it has descended with the manor of Wolston.

Turchil held half a hide in **BRANDON** before and after the Conquest, but in 1086 Wlasi was holding it of him.<sup>80</sup> The overlordship passed to the earls of Warwick, of whom it was held as half a knight's fee in 1235 and 1242,<sup>81</sup> and as a whole fee in 1309, 1316, and 1360.<sup>82</sup> Brandon itself seems to have been granted to Geoffrey de Clinton, the chamberlain of Henry I, and given by him to Norman de Verdon, who married his daughter Lesceline. Her brother Geoffrey de Clinton married Agnes daughter of Roger, Earl of Warwick, and received with her 10 knights' fees, of which the tenants were to do service at the castle of Brandon.<sup>83</sup>

Norman's grandson Nicholas de Verdon, who had a grant of free warren for his estates in Brandon in 1227,<sup>84</sup> died in 1231,<sup>85</sup> leaving as his heir his daughter Rose, who in that year paid relief on her inheritance and a fine that she should not be married against her will.<sup>86</sup> She eventually married Theobald le Boteler but retained her maiden name, which was used by her descendants. Rose held the half-fee in 1242<sup>87</sup> but was dead by May 1247, when her son John de Verdon undertook to pay 1,300 marks for the inheritance of her estates.<sup>88</sup> John married as his first wife Margery, one of the two daughters and coheirs of Walter de Lacy,<sup>89</sup> by whom he had two sons, Nicholas and Theobald. Nicholas died in 1271<sup>90</sup> and John himself in 1274,<sup>91</sup> leaving a widow Eleanor,<sup>92</sup> against whom Ela, Countess of Warwick, complained in 1278 that when she sent John the reeve of Claverdon to Brandon Castle with a letter for 10 marks which Theobald de Verdon owed her as relief for the manor Eleanor and her men took away the letter and imprisoned him for one night.<sup>93</sup> Theobald died in 1309, holding the castle of Brandon with its members in Bretford and Flecknoe, leaving a son Theobald.<sup>94</sup> The latter married first Maud de Mortimer, by whom he had three daughters, Joan, Elizabeth, and Margery, and secondly Elizabeth de Clare, widow of John de Burgh, by whom he had a daughter Isabel, born after his death in 1316.<sup>95</sup> The manor of Brandon with the hamlet of Bretford, valued at £7 17s. 6d. yearly, was assigned in dower to Elizabeth,<sup>96</sup> the reversion being granted at the division of Theobald's estates in 1344 to his daughter Elizabeth and her husband Bartholomew de Burghersh.<sup>97</sup> They inherited it on the death of the elder Elizabeth in 1360,<sup>98</sup> and conveyed it to Sir Walter Pavely and others, who sold it in 1369 to Sir John de Delves,<sup>99</sup> whose brother Hervey sold it in the following year to Sir John Arundell (son of the Earl of Arundel).<sup>1</sup> He died in 1378, when the manor passed to his younger son (Sir) William,<sup>2</sup> who settled it for life on his wife Agnes, with remainder to his brother Sir Richard Arundell, whose wife Alice recovered dower in the manor in 1420.<sup>3</sup> Sir Richard left two daughters, and the manor was assigned to Eleanor wife of Sir William St. George, who died without issue surviving. Her sister Joan had married Thomas Willoughby, whose son Sir Robert died in 1465; his eldest son Robert died young and the second son Christopher inherited the



VERDON. Argent a cross azure fretty or.

<sup>65</sup> Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.).

<sup>66</sup> Ibid.; Dugd. 36, 39.

<sup>67</sup> The Gamekeepers' Deputations give Hannah Pinchin and Letitia Wilcox as joint ladies of the manor in 1737; Susanna Hubert, widow, 1747, and Susanna wife of James Birch, 1763; Genl. George Scott, 1766-1810; the Duke of Buccleuch, 1818; William Wilcox, 1826.

<sup>68</sup> *Gent. Mag.* 1819 (1), 581. The estate was to be sold (subject to the life interest of the general's widow) for the benefit of the duke's daughters.

<sup>69</sup> For details of the descent after 1700 we are indebted to Mr. C. R. Wilcox.

<sup>70</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xi), 374.

<sup>71</sup> Cott. MS. Vitell. A. 1, fol. 58.

<sup>72</sup> Ibid. fol. 56.

<sup>73</sup> Ibid.

<sup>74</sup> *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc. xi), 715.

<sup>75</sup> Dugd. 35.

<sup>76</sup> *Wm. Salt Soc. N.S.* viii, 6.

<sup>77</sup> Dugd. 40. The Bretons were 'of Merston' in the 13th and 14th centuries: *Feet of F.* (Dugd. Soc.), 1127, 2056. Marston is probably the 'Merstone' in which 1 hide, then waste, was held in 1086 by 'R.' de Olgi of Turchil (*V.C.H. Warwick* i, 323), but the identification is not certain.

<sup>78</sup> *Cal. Clois.* 1413-19, pp. 516, 517.

<sup>79</sup> *V.C.H. Warwick* iii, 194.

<sup>80</sup> Dugd. 40.

<sup>81</sup> *V.C.H. Warwick* i, 323.

<sup>82</sup> *Bk. of Fees*, 507, 955.

<sup>83</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, 1873 vi, 543 x, p. 508.

<sup>84</sup> Dugd. 43.

<sup>85</sup> *Cal. Chart. R.* i, 58.

<sup>86</sup> *Exc. e Rot. Fin.* i, 217.

<sup>87</sup> Ibid. 218.

<sup>88</sup> *Bk. of Fees*, 955.

<sup>89</sup> *Exc. e Rot. Fin.* ii, 11.

<sup>90</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ii, 444.

<sup>91</sup> Ibid. i, 767.

<sup>92</sup> Ibid. ii, 78.

<sup>93</sup> *Cal. Clois.* 1272-9, p. 288.

<sup>94</sup> *Wm. Salt Soc.* vi, 86.

<sup>95</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* vi, 187.

<sup>96</sup> Ibid. vi, 543; Dugd. 44.

<sup>97</sup> *Cal. Clois.* 1313-18, p. 381.

<sup>98</sup> Ibid. 1343-6, p. 342.

<sup>99</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* x, p. 508.

<sup>1</sup> *Cal. Clois.* 1369-74, p. 74.

<sup>2</sup> *Cat. Anct. D. v*, A. 10650.

<sup>3</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 3 Ric. II, no. 1.

<sup>4</sup> *Wm. Salt Soc.* xvii, 72.



manor on the death of Sir William St. George in 1472.<sup>4</sup> From Christopher Willoughby it passed to his third son Sir Thomas, who settled it on himself and his wife



WILLOUGHBY. *Or fretty  
azure.*



YELVERTON. *Argent  
three lions and a chief  
gules.*

Bridget (Rede) in 1510 and died in 1537, leaving a son Robert.<sup>5</sup> His grandson Sir Percival Willoughby sold it in 1615 to Sir Henry Yelverton, the Attorney General.<sup>6</sup> His great-grandson Henry was created Viscount Longueville in 1690 and died in 1704 and Brandon manor was held by his widow Barbara until her death in 1763; by her grandson Henry, Earl of Sussex, who died in 1799; by his grandson Henry, Lord Grey de Ruthin, who died in 1810; and by his daughter Barbara, Baroness Grey in 1818.<sup>7</sup> From her it was bought by James Beech, with whose descendants the estate has remained.<sup>8</sup>

The younger Geoffrey de Clinton gave 150 acres of his demesne land in *BRETTFORD*, with meadow between Bretford and the pond of Marston mill, and all the lands held in villeinage between the four bounds of Musevellesiche and the ditch, the Avon and the wood of Burdlege to Noemi the nun, for the establishment of a small house of nuns.<sup>9</sup> The scheme was speedily abandoned, and with his consent the nuns Noemi and Seburn handed the endowment over to the canons of Kenilworth Priory.<sup>10</sup> They subsequently leased the estate to Richard the clerk of Bretford for life at a rent of 1 mark, and he, according to the jurors at the inquest after the death of Theobald de Verdon the younger in 1316, made a fraudulent conveyance of it to 'the lord of Brandon'.<sup>11</sup> According to the return of 1279 the elder Theobald was then lord of Bretford, which he held of the Prior of Kenilworth, who held of the Earl of Warwick.<sup>12</sup> Whatever the rights of the case, Bretford from this time onward figures only as a member of Brandon, though Kenilworth in 1535 had tenements in Bretford producing 15s. 4d. in rents, and in Brandon 46s. 8d.<sup>13</sup>

The church of *ST. MARGARET* is *CHURCH* situated on the south bank of the River

Avon, north of the village, and stands in a small churchyard. It consists of a chancel, north and south transepts, north and south aisles, central tower, and a modern vestry. It dates from the 12th century, when it probably consisted of a chancel, nave and south transept, and a low central tower, the north transept being added early in the 13th century. In the 14th century the church was rebuilt with the addition of aisles; in the 15th century a clearstory was inserted, and in the 17th century the low tower was raised to form a belfry. Of the 12th-century church the tower crossing remains, with the 13th-century arch to the

north transept, and the north doorway re-used in the 14th-century south aisle. The roof of the chancel was extensively repaired in 1680 and decorated in colour in 1760.

The chancel, built of small limestone rubble with red sandstone dressings, has a low-pitched lead-covered roof; the east end has diagonal buttresses at the angles and is lighted by a modern pointed four-light traceried window with a hood-mould. The upper part of the gable wall has been rebuilt in ashlar and the coping renewed. On the north side a large buttress in four weathered stages has been added, probably when the roof was repaired in the 17th century. Built against it and inclosing the original central buttress is a small modern vestry, built of red sandstone ashlar and lighted by two two-light square-headed windows. Between the vestry and the transept there is a 17th-century three-light window with a segmental-pointed head. The south side has a central buttress and to the west a modern low-side window of two round-headed lights with a square head. On either side of the buttress there is a restored pointed traceried window of three splayed orders with two trefoil lights and hood-moulds. West of the buttress there is a narrow pointed doorway of two hollow splay with a hood-mould formed by the string-course.

The north transept, which has a steep-pitched tiled roof, has had diagonal buttresses added to the angles and its walls refaced in small squared and coursed limestone with bands of red sandstone. It is lighted on the east by a three-light pointed traceried window of two splayed orders, the centre light cinquefoil, the outer round-headed with a hood-mould and head-stops. On the north the tracery has been removed from a large pointed window with a hood-mould and head-stops; the opening has been built up for the insertion of a three-light square-headed window with a two-light above; the two-light, evidently re-used from elsewhere, has the date A.D. 1577 on the head, and on the sill a later inscribed date AnDom. 1624 and the initials R.W. In the gable over the window is a small tablet inscribed 'Thomas Willcox 1818' and below it another, 'John . . . . 1776'.

The south transept has a modern M-shaped tiled roof; the walls are partly rebuilt or refaced similarly to the north transept and angle buttresses added. It is lighted on the east by a pointed traceried window of three trefoil lights, with a hood-mould, and has a modern string-course at sill level; on the south is a modern pointed window of three pointed lights.

The north aisle is built of small coursed limestone rubble with a low-pitched lead-covered roof and is divided into three bays by rebuilt buttresses. The west bay is lighted by a single square-headed window with a trefoil ogee light and has a pointed doorway of two moulded orders which continue down the jambs without capitals, the inner a splay, the outer a roll and hollow; it has a hood-mould with head-stops. The other two bays have similar windows, but with two lights, and all have hood-moulds without stops. High up in the west wall is a square-headed window of two pointed cinquefoil lights, probably inserted in the 17th century. The wall of the clearstory is built of ashlar

<sup>4</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. 6 Edw. IV, no. 35; 12 Edw. IV, no. 50.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid. (Ser. 2), lxxx, 87. For pedigree see G. E. C. *Complete Peerage* (1st ed.), viii, 145.

<sup>6</sup> Dugd. 45; Feet of F. Warw. Mich.

<sup>7</sup> Jas. I.

<sup>8</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations. Cf. G. E. C. *Complete Peerage* (2nd ed.), vi, 162-4.

<sup>9</sup> Burke, *Landed Gentry* (1937).

<sup>10</sup> Harl. MS. 3650, fol. 69 v.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid. fol. c.

<sup>12</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* vi, 54.

<sup>13</sup> Exch. K.R. Misc. Bks. 15, fol. 11 v.

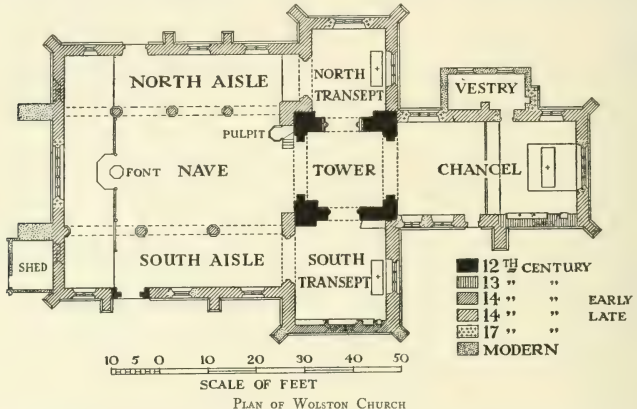
<sup>14</sup> *Palat. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 65.

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

and is without a parapet to the low-pitched lead-covered nave roof. It is lighted by three square-headed windows of two pointed cinquefoil lights. The west end of the nave is supported by two large modern brick buttresses, rendered with cement, and lighted by a 17th-century segmental-pointed traceried window of five lights, the three central lights cinquefoiled and the two outer trefoiled.

The south aisle has a plain parapet on a band of red sandstone to a low-pitched lead-covered roof, and is divided into three bays by buttresses, the west bay containing a pointed traceried window of two trefoil lights, and a re-used 12th-century round-headed doorway, of two orders supported on an impost moulding and attached shafts with cushion capitals. The inner order is plain, the outer ornamented with zigzag decoration and a splay decorated with button orna-

lar shafts having moulded capitals and bases, the arch moulding being carried down to the stone seats as responds. In the wall on the north side, east of the 17th-century window, the jamb and springer of a window corresponding to the one opposite are visible. The original windows have splayed reveals, pointed rear-arches, and moulded sills, probably part of a destroyed string-course; the later window has a moulded segmental rear-arch; the pointed doorway to the vestry is modern. The chancel arch is round-headed, of two plain orders on the chancel side resting on a square impost, on the crossing side the outer order is roll-moulded, supported on detached shafts with a carved capital on the south side, the corresponding one has been replaced with a square block. The altar is modern, but the rail dates from the 17th century and was originally in use at Rowington.<sup>13a</sup> It has turned balusters, a moulded



ment. The detail of the capitals has been weathered away and the bases encased in concrete. The centre bay has a modern trefoiled single light, and the east a pointed traceried window of two trefoil lights; the mullion and head are modern restorations. The clear-story is similar to that on the north side, and the west wall has a corresponding 17th-century window.

The chancel (37 ft. 3 in. by 19 ft. 3 in.) is paved with stone and has a roof divided into four bays with three trusses and two wall-trusses. The tie-beam, purlins, and ridge are moulded. It was extensively repaired in 1680; and in 1760 the whole roof was decorated in colour, following the gothic tradition, with chevrons, rosettes, the initials M, IHS, carried out in red, white, blue, black, and gold. The bay above the altar has a blue background with gold stars. The sides of the beams are decorated with shields and foliage, with the date 1760 on the western wall-truss. At the eastern end of the south wall there is a 13th-century piscina with a pointed trefoil head, hood-mould with head-stops, and a circular basin. Adjoining are triple sedilia with pointed moulded trefoil heads, with hood-moulds and head-stops, supported on circular

shaft fitted with a modern capping. Carved on the rail are the initials and the date WBIG 1633 I.C.

The south transept (20 ft. 9 in. by 19 ft.), now called the Lady Chapel, has a modern, flat, plastered ceiling, plastered walls, and a concrete floor. Extending along the south wall the full width of the transept there are a piscina, sedile, and two tomb recesses of the early 14th century, constructed as a single unit. The piscina has a pointed trefoiled head with a splayed projection for a six-foil basin, the sedile has a round trefoiled wave-moulded head, and over both is a hood-moulding with a central head-stop, the moulding being continued above the tombs as a string-course at window-sill level. The tomb recesses have segmental-pointed arches of two moulded orders, the inner cinquefoiled, which spring from panelled pilasters with gabled heads and pinnacles with foliated finials; the pilaster at the western end is missing. In the recess to the east there is a badly worn recumbent effigy of a woman and in the other a decayed effigy of a man, probably a knight. The arch to the crossing is round-headed, of two plain orders resting on a cavetto-moulded impost; the outer order continues down the jambs and the inner is sup-

<sup>13a</sup> *Ex inf.* Mr. P. B. Chatwin, F.S.A., F.R.I.B.A.

ported on half-round responds with fluted capitals and moulded bases. Above the arch is a narrow round-headed 12th-century window. East of the arch there is a table tomb, probably late 15th century, in light-coloured stone with a polished Purbeck marble top and a canopy over. The front is traceried, with the matrices of three shields, and the canopy has a frieze of quatrefoils finished with a carved cresting; the back, which contained the inscription, is also traceried but only the lead fixing plugs of the inscription remain.<sup>14</sup>

The north transept (18 ft. 2 in. by 15 ft. 4 in.) has a flat, plastered ceiling, the walls plastered and lined out to represent ashlar. The arch to the crossing is pointed, of two orders, the inner chamfered, the outer plain with impost and responds similar to the one to the south transept and with a corresponding round-headed window above. Beneath this arch is the organ.

The nave (47 ft. 2 in. by 22 ft. 6 in.) has walls plastered and lined out as ashlar, and is paved with stone slabs. The roof is divided into five bays by trusses with moulded tie-beams, purlins, and ridge, the tie-beams having central carved bosses. The beams are supported by wall-posts with curved brackets resting on moulded timber corbels. This and the aisle roofs probably date from the late 17th century, when the chancel roof was repaired. The south arcade appears to have been the first to be built, followed by the north. It has only three bays and is of a more massive character than the north, which has four bays supported on slighter pillars. The three bays have pointed arches of two splays, the outer hollow, supported on octagonal pillars with moulded capitals, wide enough to take the outer order, and moulded bases. At the west end the arch rests on a half-octagon respond with a mutilated moulded capital, and at the east end the arch dies out on the wall. The north arcade has four bays of pointed arches, of two splayed orders, supported on octagonal pillars with moulded capitals and bases, the outer order resting on corbels carved with grotesque masks. At both ends the arches die out on the walls. The arch to the crossing is round-headed, slightly depressed, of two plain orders and on the nave side the outer order is supported on detached shafts with carved capitals and moulded bases; the capital to the south is carved with interlaced figures, and the north, although mutilated, retains three figures with a cross between them. At the west end the floor has been lowered to its original level for a distance of 10 ft. 6 in. and a concrete floor provided, with the intention of extending it to the whole of the nave and aisles. Along the step so formed, a 17th-century barrier in two sections has been fixed with its panels cut out, leaving the muntings to form a balustrade; it has circular posts and a moulded rail and may possibly have been a gallery front. The font is placed between these rails against the step; it dates from the 14th century and is octagonal with a lead-lined circular basin, each face carved with crocketed ogee trefoils springing from carved mask stops and supported on eight half-shafts with continuous mouldings forming the capitals and bases. The pulpit placed on the north side of the crossing arch is a modern circular one of carved oak on an octagonal stem.

The south aisle (44 ft. 10 in. by 10 ft. 9 in.) is stone

paved and has the walls and the underside of the roof between the trusses plastered. The roof has plain timbers, the trusses supported on small curved brackets. The corbels of an earlier roof still remain in the arcade wall. The arch to the transept is segmental-pointed of two orders, the inner a wave moulding, the outer a splay, which continue down to splayed bases without capitals. At the west end there are three painted lists of charities from 1607 to 1880 and a small oak chest with iron straps dated 1754. The windows have pointed rear-arches, and the door has a segmental-pointed one.

The north aisle (49 ft. 6 in. by 10 ft. 6 in.) has roof, walls, and floor as the south aisle. The transept arch is pointed, of two orders, the inner a wave moulding, the outer a splay, supported on responds repeating the arch mouldings with moulded capitals and splayed bases. The doorway has a segmental-pointed rear-arch and the windows have flat heads.

The plate includes a silver chalice and cover with hallmark 1729, inscribed 'Barbara Visc<sup>ts</sup> Downker Longueville ex dono'; a silver paten with hallmark 1518, 5 in. in diameter, engraved in the centre with a head of Our Lord; and a silver chalice 64 in. high with a projecting lip, the hallmark illegible.

The bell-chamber, to which there is no internal access, contains four bells. Of these the earliest is by John de Stafford and dates from c. 1350; the others are by William Clibury of Wellington, 1620; W. and T. Mears, 1789; and John Taylor, 1894.<sup>15</sup>

The registers begin in 1558.

Owing to disputes about pews in 1635 plans of the church were drawn, showing Sir Peter Wentworth's seat under the tower, against the south-west 'steepie pillar', with two adjoining seats for his servants; also Mr. Warner's seat in the south transept, from which he could not see or hear the priest, the pulpit being against the north-west pier. The communion table is shown standing lengthwise in the chancel.<sup>16</sup>

As already related, the church of ADPOWSON Wolston was given to the abbey of St. Pierre-sur-Dives about 1090. It was appropriated to the abbey and in 1220 a vicarage was ordained, one of the duties of the vicar being to see that the chapels belonging to the church were served by fit persons. With the assent of the Prior of Tutbury (the chief cell of Dives in England) 4 marks yearly were assigned from the rectory, out of which the vicar was to provide coats and shoes for thirteen poor parishioners, any residue going to the support of an assistant priest.<sup>17</sup> In 1291 the rectory was valued at £22<sup>17</sup> and the vicarage at £6 13s. 4d.<sup>18</sup> Presentation to the vicarage was made by the abbey until the end of the 13th century but in and after 1317 by the Prior of Wolston, or more often by the king, the possessions of alien priories being seized during war with France. Negotiations for the sale of the priory, including the advowson of the church, to the Carthusian priory of St. Anne at Coventry were begun at the end of 1394,<sup>19</sup> and licence for the alienation was obtained in 1396.<sup>20</sup> The vicar is said to have complained of the insufficiency of his endowment in 1454,<sup>21</sup> and in 1535 the vicarage, including the profits of two chapels within the bounds

<sup>14</sup> Dugdale (p. 39) does not mention this but refers to a table tomb, in the chancel, to Sir William Wigston (d. 1577), and matrix of brasses to Joan, wife of Richard Hotot and formerly wife of Richard Metley (d. 1473), and Margaret, daughter

of Nicholas Metley and wife of John Hugford (d. 1474).

<sup>15</sup> Tilley and Walters, *Church Bells of Warwick*, 267-8.

<sup>16</sup> S.P. Dom. Chas. I, vol. 296, no. 77.  
<sup>17</sup> Dugd. 38.

<sup>17</sup> *Tax. Ecdl.* (Rec. Com.), 241.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.* 244.

<sup>19</sup> *P.C.H. Warwick*, ii, 133.

<sup>20</sup> *Cal. Pat.*, 1396-9, p. 5.

<sup>21</sup> Dugd. 38.

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of the parish, was worth £15 10s.<sup>22</sup> At the same time the rectory was let for £19, against which had to be set 34s. 2d. payable in fees to the bishop and others, 8s. to the monks of Kenilworth for certain tithes, and the 4 marks (53s. 4d.) still paid to the vicar for alms.<sup>23</sup>

After the Dissolution the rectory and advowson of Wolston were granted to Richard Field and Ralph Woodward in 1549<sup>24</sup> and they promptly conveyed them to William Wigston,<sup>25</sup> whose parents Roger and Christine Wigston had leased the rectory for a term of 60 years in 1522.<sup>26</sup> Sir William Wigston died in 1577,<sup>27</sup> and from his son Roger, who died in 1608, the rectory and advowson passed to Peter Wentworth, son of Roger's daughter Susan.<sup>28</sup> Sir Peter having acquired the manor of Wolston in 1650, the advowson descended with it, Charles Pinchin presenting in 1727.<sup>29</sup> In 1760 Elizabeth Baker presented in trust for Susanna wife of James Birch,<sup>30</sup> who is probably identical with the Mrs. (Susanna) Hubert named as patron about this time.<sup>31</sup> George Scott, esquire (afterwards General), and Sophia his wife presented in 1768 and 1780,<sup>32</sup> At the time of the sale of the estate (1823-5) a life-interest was saved to the general's widow, Harriet, then aged 73; she was presumably his second wife; and Mrs. Scott was said to be patron in 1830,<sup>33</sup> the year before her death.<sup>34</sup> By 1859 the advowson had certainly been reunited to the manor in the hands of W. Wilcox, in whose family it descended until 1930, when Mrs. Mary Hilda Hoggard, last surviving child of C. W. Wilcox, transferred the patronage to Sir C. A. King-Harman. In 1936 he conveyed it to the Diocesan Board of Patronage.<sup>35</sup>

The return of 1535 mentions two chapels in the parish, of which the chaplains were removable at the vicar's will.<sup>36</sup> One of these was Stretton-upon-Dunsmore (q.v.) and the other may have been the chapel of St. Edmund at Bretford. This was founded in the 12th century as a hospital for lepers and about 1180 Bishop Richard of Coventry, at the request of Alore, Abbot of St. Pierre-sur-Dives, licensed them to have a chaplain of their own in their chapel, saving the rights of the parish church.<sup>37</sup> It lost its connexion with lepers quite early, but chaplains were presented by members of the Turvill family from 1303 down to 1360.<sup>38</sup>

Clerk's Close. By indentures dated **CHARITIES** 30 and 31 December 1831 a parcel of land in Wolston containing 8a. 15p. called Church Land was conveyed to trustees to permit the churchwardens of Wolston to apply the rents as follows: viz. three fifth parts for the reparation of the parish church and the other two fifths for the use of the parish clerk.

Mary Herne by will dated 17 May 1847 charged certain property with an annual payment of £2 to the Wolston Women's Clothing and the Childbed Linen Societies, founded by her daughter, in equal proportions.

The Rev. James Corral Roberts by will proved 25 September 1871 bequeathed £200, the income to be applied by the vicar and churchwardens in the purchase of bread or coals, or both, to be distributed at Christmas to the poor of the parish.

Thomas Walton by a codicil dated 13 December 1862 to his will dated 14 February 1862 bequeathed £100 to the minister and churchwardens, the interest to be laid out on 1 January in the providing of a cooked round of beef and potatoes and bread to be distributed amongst the poor widows of the parish.

Sir Peter Wentworth, who died in 1675, by his will bequeathed £300, the interest to bind forth four young people every year, the first two to be of Lillingstone Lovell and the next two of Wolston and so successively for ever, to be apprentices to some honest trade.

Mary Turner. This parish participates in this charity to the amount of 6s. 8d. each year, which is applied for the relief of the poor. For particulars of the charity see under parish of Ryton-on-Dunsmore.

The Rev. John Wilcox by will dated 15 January 1874 bequeathed £200 to the vicar and churchwardens, the interest to be applied for the benefit of the poor.

The above-mentioned charities are now regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 1 March 1921, by which the charities, with the exception of the Clerk's Close Charity, shall be administered under the title of the United Charities by a body of trustees. The scheme also appoints a body of trustees to administer the Clerk's Close Charity and provides for the application of the income of all the charities.

Owen Watkin Wynn Hardinge Meredith by a codicil dated 13 October 1917 to his will, proved on 15 June 1919, gave £100 to be handed to the vicar, and the parish to elect 12 men to decide how best to use it for the benefit of the poor. By a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 9 October 1931 it was provided that the charity should be administered by the trustees of the United Charities. The annual income of the charity amounts to £3 7s. 4d.

John Masters by will dated 5 February 1890 bequeathed £500, to be invested in the names of three of the trustees of the Queen's Road Baptist Chapel, Coventry, and the dividends to be used for keeping in repair the fencing round the Baptist Chapel at Wolston and its cemetery and in keeping the said cemetery clean, and to apply any surplus which may remain in the repairs of the said chapel.

<sup>22</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 62.  
<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.* 53-4; *Mon. Bailiffs' Accts.* (Dugd. Soc.), 74-6.

<sup>24</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1548-9, p. 351.  
<sup>25</sup> *C.P. Deeds endr.* Hil. 6-7 Edw. VI, m. 16 d.

<sup>26</sup> *Mon. Bailiffs' Accts.* (Dugd. Soc.), 75.  
<sup>27</sup> *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), clxxxiii, 95.

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.* cccxxxvii, 80.  
<sup>29</sup> *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.).

<sup>30</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>31</sup> *Eccton, Thesaurus* (1763), 94.

<sup>32</sup> *Inst. Bks.*

<sup>33</sup> *West, Directory of Warwick*, (1830).

<sup>34</sup> She died in March 1831 at Leamington: *Gen. Mag.* 1831 (2), 284. As James Corral Roberts was vicar from 1819 to 1871 no presentation was made between those years, but the patron was said to be 'Lady Scott' in 1831 (Lewis, *Topog. Dict.*, 1837 (Clerical Guide), and 1850 (White, *Directory of Warwick*). If this is not an

error, the reference is probably to a daughter of the 4th Duke of Buccleuch (see above, n. 68).

<sup>35</sup> Information from the Rev. W. Sterry-Cooper and the Registrar of Coventry Diocese.

<sup>36</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 62.  
<sup>37</sup> *Cal. Docis. France*, 205. Cf. *V.C.H. Warw.* ii, 109.

<sup>38</sup> *Dugd.* 46.





WOLVEY CHURCH, c. 1820



## WOLVEY

Acreage: 3,472.

Population: 1911, 657; 1921, 686; 1931, 763.

Wolvey is a large parish and village on the border of the county 5 miles south-east of Nuneaton. It is watered by the head streams of the River Anker, rising near Wolvey Farm in the south and Wolvey Wolds in the south-east of the parish. The north-east and southern boundaries, with Leicestershire and Withybrook, are well defined by the Watling Street and a long shelter-belt of trees respectively, but the remainder are extremely irregular, the Monks Kirby hamlet of Copston Magna jutting into the eastern side of the parish, which on the west includes parts of the Bulkington hamlets of Bramcote, Ryton, and Wolverhill and is closely adjoined by Shelford in Burton Hastings. Though the situation is on a watershed the ground is fairly level, the extreme heights being about 450 ft. at the south-east corner beyond Wolvey Wolds Farm, and 311 ft. where the Anker leaves the parish on the west. There is very little woodland except for the plantations surrounding Leicester Grange at the north end.

There are no railways or canals, but Wolvey is very well supplied with roads, the chief of which are the main road from Coventry to Leicester, crossing the parish from south-west to north-east and leaving the parish at Smockington, a hamlet on the Watling Street, well known in the early 18th century for its inns,<sup>1</sup> the upper road from Lutterworth to Hinckley, crossing the former north-east of the village, and a road from Nuneaton crossing Wolvey Heath and linking these two. Other roads run from the village westwards via Bulkington to Bedworth; from the Coventry road south-east to Withybrook and eventually Rugby; and from the Lutterworth road eastwards to Copston Magna and High Cross. The village, though scattered, is a large one, formerly the scene of a weekly market and a fair on St. Mark's Day, the latter being held as late as 1830.<sup>2</sup> Wolvey Heath, just north of the village, was the scene of a public execution in 1555, when Lady Smyth was burnt to death for the murder of her husband Sir Walter Smyth of Sherford.<sup>3</sup> The actual scene was a circle of raised ground, visible in Dugdale's time, about 100 yards south of the 'vestigia of a moat, a pool and an old house within it', which still exist, marking the site of a medieval hermitage.<sup>4</sup>

Wolvey Hall, at the southern end of the village, was rebuilt in 1889, but the staircase and some oak panelling were re-used from the earlier hall, which was rebuilt in 1677. In one of the windows there are some fragments of late-16th-century coloured heraldic glass from the still earlier hall. The staircase which leads from the ground to the first floor is in three flights separated by landings. It is of oak, with plain massive square newels, moulded handrails and strings. The balustrades of the two longer flights each consist of two carved spiral scrolls, the short flight a single scroll, and at the first-floor landing is a central carved urn with scrolls in the corners and the date 1677 on the urn. The strings have a battlemented top moulding, the

newels four-sided ogee-shaped finials and pendants, the pendants pierced with a heart on each side. The stair is continued to the second floor with square newels, moulded handrail, and delicate turned balusters, dating from the 18th century. At the foot of the staircase there is a 17th-century balustrade with a moulded handrail and twisted balusters, part hinged, to give access to a cellar stair.

In the grounds, close to the road, is Jacob's Well with the ruins of a masonry well-head piled over it. Among the stones is a carved reclining figure holding a pitcher which formed the outlet, and above it the date 1707.

The open fields of the parish, still commemorated in Wolvey Fields Farm a mile south of the village, remained till at least 1794 when they amounted to 2,524 acres; there seems to have been no general Inclosure Act for the parish.<sup>5</sup>

The repair of Goose Bridge, carrying the Wolvey-Bulkington road across the Anker, caused disputes between these two parishes between 1659 and 1664. It was at first declared to be an equal charge on the two parishes, and later each was ordered to repair its own part, but the bridge was still not repaired in 1664.<sup>6</sup>

*WOLVEY* in 1086 was assessed at 5½ *MANORS* hides, held of the king by Robert de Vesci, Alricson of Meriet having held it freely before 1066.<sup>7</sup> The overlords of the vill in later times, however, were the Earls of Warwick. Earl William in 1166 stated that Ivo de Harecurt held 7 fees *de vetero feffamento*, but that his father (Earl Roger) had transferred (the overlordship of) 3½ fees to the Earl of Leicester<sup>8</sup>—from whom it descended to the Earls of Winchester, so that the overlordship was shared by the two earls. Ivo's great-grandson Sir Richard de Harecurt in 1242 held of the Earl of Warwick a half and a fifth of a fee in Wolvey and Copston.<sup>9</sup> The monks of Combe held 1 fee of the Earl of Warwick in 1235;<sup>10</sup> they also in 1271 held 2 of William de Harecurt in frank almain, excepting scutage, and he held of the Earl of Winchester,<sup>11</sup> who had held a quarter of a fee in Wolvey, tenant not stated, in 1235.<sup>12</sup> On the death of the last Quency Earl of Winchester (1264) his estates were divided amongst his daughters, two of whom, with their descendants, held interests in Wolvey. By the marriage of Margaret to William de Ferrers, Earl of Derby, the overlordship of the two Harecurt (later Combe Abbey) fees was brought to the Ferrers of Groby, the first of whom was the younger son of the earl. This overlordship is recorded down to 1458.<sup>13</sup> Ela de Quency became the wife of Alan la Zouche, and her grandson Alan at his death in 1313 held a total of 2 fees in Wolvey, 1 held of him by the heirs of William de Bois, a quarter by the (lately suppressed) Knights Templars, and three-quarters by the Abbot of Combe and the heirs of Thomas de Leycestre.<sup>14</sup> These descended to his daughter Maud and her husband Robert de Holland<sup>15</sup> and through their great-grand-

<sup>1</sup> Dugd. 71.

<sup>2</sup> West, *Directory Warwick*, 724.

<sup>3</sup> For the circumstances of this murder see Dugd. 55-6.

<sup>4</sup> Dugd. 67.

<sup>5</sup> Kelly, *Directory Warwick*, (1936).

<sup>6</sup> *Warwick Co. Records*, iv, 83, 110-11.

<sup>7</sup> 238-9, 278.

<sup>8</sup> *F.C.H. Warwick*, i, 331.

<sup>9</sup> *Red Book of Exch.* (Rolls Ser.), 325.

<sup>10</sup> *Book of Fees*, 958.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.* 508.

<sup>12</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* i, 776 (p. 25\*).

<sup>13</sup> *Book of Fees*, 509.

<sup>14</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* xiii, 460 (p. 317); Chan. Inq. p.m. 45 Edw. III, 1st nos. 22; 11 Ric. II, 26; 17 Ric. II, 24; 23 Hen. VI, 33; 36 Hen. VI, 40.

<sup>15</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, 458 (p. 259).

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.* vii, 150 (p. 123).

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

daughter Maud, wife of John, Lord Lovel, to her grandson William.<sup>16</sup>

Ivo de Harecurt granted his land in Wolvey to Robert Basset on his marriage with Ivo's sister Beatrice.<sup>17</sup> Out of this Robert granted 100 acres of his demesne to the abbey of Combe.<sup>18</sup> This was confirmed in 1201 by his son Reynold, when it was defined as lying on Calde- wellhill and including the land between Sandforde and Grimesworne stretching to the Watling Street, also a messuage near the Holy Well (*santam fontem*); he also added pasture on the Heath for 500 sheep.<sup>19</sup> Possession of the messuage was lost by the abbot because it was not warranted; it was therefore replaced in 1206 by another between the road from Wolvey to Hincley and the land of Sherford.<sup>20</sup> Four years later Reynold received 6 virgates of land in Wolvey from Walter Spigurnel and Celestr(ine) his wife for 15 marks.<sup>21</sup> He was dead by 1227 and his estates divided between his nephews Robert de Leycestre and Ivo de Dene;<sup>22</sup> in this year his widow Maud exchanged her dower in the two halves of the manor with Robert and Ivo for Reynold's lands in Scakethorpe (Yorks.) and rents in Wolvey.<sup>23</sup> Robert de Leycestre in 1256 was exempted from taking up the arms of a knight, being old and feeble;<sup>24</sup> Thomas de Leycestre, or his heirs, were recorded as holding, with the Abbot of Combe, three-quarters of a fee in 1314 and 1328.<sup>25</sup> Ivo de Dene was a great benefactor to Combe; in 1230 he granted 56 acres and a mill in return for a life tenancy of 1 virgate formerly held by Robert son of John and Robert of the Cross,<sup>26</sup> and subject to the right of him and his heirs to take half the eels and fish caught in the stake-nets (*hayas*) allowed to be put across the mill-pond by the monks. This mill was situated beside his court (*curia*).<sup>27</sup> Ivo also gave the abbey 2s. rent from Ralph son of Nicholas;<sup>28</sup> and to Reynold son of Jordan of Eton, on his marriage with his daughter Alice, land in Wolvey which was in 1304-5 in possession of Reynold's grandson William de Atteberue.<sup>29</sup>

The connexion of the Earls of Winchester with Wolvey may have influenced the marriage of Arabella, daughter of Saer de Quency, to Sir Richard de Harecurt, who died in 1258.<sup>30</sup> His son William (died 1270) granted all the lands of his fee in Wolvey to Combe Abbey.<sup>31</sup> This fee is referred to in inquisitions of 1293 and 1344.<sup>32</sup> William's son Richard confirmed his father's grant, reserving relief of 2 knight's fees therefrom,<sup>33</sup> and remitted to the abbey the claim to relief payable from the manor on the death of any heirs of Ivo de Dene, saving scutage on the 2 fees.<sup>34</sup> Roger de

Quency, Earl of Winchester, also released his claims in Wolvey to the abbey before his death in 1264.<sup>35</sup> From Robert de Leycestre the abbey received 14 acres on Haliwellhill and 3 on Ravenhull extending to Dedespol, and from Stephen de Sedgrave 2 virgates.<sup>36</sup> By the end of the 13th century the monastic estate was the most important in Wolvey; in 1285 the abbot successfully claimed view of frankpledge, assize of bread and ale, gallows, and exemption from shire and hundred contributions, *murdrum*, danelgeld, and all other scutages and tolls.<sup>37</sup> Free warren was granted in 1290,<sup>38</sup> and a Wednesday market and three-day fair in connexion with St. Mark's Day in 1326.<sup>39</sup> The abbot was returned as sole lord of Wolvey *cum membris* in 1316.<sup>40</sup> His estates there, valued in 1291 at £11 14s. with the stock, rents, and perquisites of court, and including a mill, dovehouse, and garden,<sup>41</sup> were still being increased by small grants during the 14th century.<sup>42</sup> In 1429-30 the abbot seems to have mortgaged the manor to Humphrey, Earl of Stafford and Buckingham,<sup>43</sup> from whom it was received back in 1441, when the abbot and convent were pardoned for re-acquiring and entering the manor and lands of Wolvey without licence.<sup>44</sup> Just before the Dissolution the Combe estates in Wolvey were leased to Thomas Spenser and Christopher his son;<sup>45</sup> they were worth £13 13s. 4d. in 1535<sup>46</sup> and were among those granted for life to Mary, Duchess of Richmond and Somerset, four years later.<sup>47</sup> She survived till 1557, but in 1551 the reversion of the manor was granted to Edward, Lord Clynton, his heirs, and assigns.<sup>48</sup> Clynton must have passed it soon to Thomas Marow, who suffered a recovery of Wolvey manor in 1555,<sup>49</sup> and in whose family it continued for upwards of 80 years.<sup>50</sup> In 1556 he divided it into four quarters among his sons Thomas, John, Edward, and Kenelm, the last named dying in possession of his quarter in 1564,<sup>51</sup> when his heir was Samuel Marow, apparently the eldest brother.<sup>52</sup> Thomas Marow the younger died the same year,<sup>53</sup> and between 1564 and 1571 Samuel obtained the lordship of all the quarters except that of John.<sup>54</sup> In 1631-2 the reunited manor was conveyed to Thomas, 1st Baron Coventry of Aylesborough,<sup>55</sup> reserving a life tenancy to Ursula (Fiennes), Lady Marow, who was still in possession in 1640.<sup>56</sup> The second Lord Coventry executed a deed of settlement of the manor in 1653,<sup>57</sup> and it continued in this family,<sup>58</sup> Anne, Countess of Coventry, widow of the 4th Earl (6th Baron), being lady of the manor between 1727 and 1776.<sup>59</sup> Up to the end of the 18th century this was still the main Wolvey manor, the advowson and

<sup>16</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. 1 Hen. VI, 51; 33 Hen. VI, 28.

<sup>17</sup> Cott. MS. Vitell. A.I, fol. 89.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid. fol. 84; Cal. Chart. R. i, 352.

<sup>19</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xi), 78.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid. 153.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid. 195, 208.

<sup>22</sup> Cott. MS. Vitell. A.I, fol. 87, 90.

<sup>23</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xi), 423, 424.

<sup>24</sup> Cal. Pat. 1247-58, p. 529.

<sup>25</sup> Cal. Inq. p.m. v, 458 (p. 259); vii, 156 (p. 123).

<sup>26</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xi), 437.

<sup>27</sup> Cott. MS. Vitell. A.I, fol. 87.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid. fol. 89 v.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid. fol. 92.

<sup>30</sup> Wm. Salt, Soc. 1914, p. 187.

<sup>31</sup> Cott. MS. Vitell. A.I, fol. 86.

<sup>32</sup> Cal. Inq. p.m. iii, 116 (p. 76); viii, 470 (p. 117).

<sup>33</sup> In 1293, at the inquisition on Rich-

ard's death, 2 fees were held by the Abbot of Combe in Wolvey and Withybrook.

<sup>34</sup> Cott. MS. Vitell. A.I, fol. 89 v.

<sup>35</sup> Ibid. fol. 90.

<sup>36</sup> Ibid. fol. 88.

<sup>37</sup> Plac. de Quo Warr. (Rec. Com.), 777.

<sup>38</sup> Cal. Chart. R. ii, 343.

<sup>39</sup> Ibid. iii, 484.

<sup>40</sup> Feudal Aids, v, 176.

<sup>41</sup> Tax. Eccl. (Rec. Com.), 255.

<sup>42</sup> Cal. Pat. 1281-92, p. 427; 1338-40, p. 520.

<sup>43</sup> Dugd. 68.

<sup>44</sup> Cal. Pat. 1436-41, p. 508.

<sup>45</sup> F.R.O. Anct. Deeds, D. 4829.

<sup>46</sup> Valor Eccl. (Rec. Com.), iii, 54. This

does not include the Combe property in Little Copston or the moiety of the

rectory.

<sup>47</sup> L. and P. Hen. VIII, xiv (1), 595.

<sup>48</sup> Cal. Pat. 1550-3, p. 209.

<sup>49</sup> Recov. R. 1 & 2 Ph. & Mary, ro. 153.

<sup>50</sup> Feet of F. Warw. East. 43 Eliz.; Trin. 6 Jas. I; East. 2 Chas. I; Warw. Co.

Records, i, 13, 16.

<sup>51</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cxl, 183.

<sup>52</sup> Dugd. 981.

<sup>53</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cxl, 181.

<sup>54</sup> Fine R. 6 Eliz. m. 71; 7 Eliz. m. 20;

13 Eliz. m. 66.

<sup>55</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Trin. 7 Chas. I;

Recov. R. East. 8 Chas. I, ro. 64.

<sup>56</sup> W. & L. Inq. p.m. lxvi, 181.

<sup>57</sup> Dugd. 68, quoting a letter from

Henry Beighton, F.R.S., the illustrator of

Thomas's edition.

<sup>58</sup> Feet of F. Div. Cos. Trin. 10 Chas. I;

Recov. R. Mich. 1653, ro. 236; Feet of F.

Warw. East. 3 Wm. & Mary; Recov. R.

East. 28 Geo. III, ro. 182.

<sup>59</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations, Shire

Hall, Warwick.



moiety of the rectory being appurtenant to it. It was sold by the Earl of Coventry about 1794 to John Foster of Leicester Grange, whose son sold it about 1815 to



COVENTRY. *Sable a fesse ermine between three crescents or.*



LOYD. *Per bend sinister ermine and argent a double-headed eagle sable within a border sable bezanty.*

Samuel Jones Loyd,<sup>60</sup> who was created Baron Overstone in 1850 and died in 1883, when it passed to his nephew Lewis Vivian Loyd, and on his death in 1908 to his son Richard Lewis Loyd.<sup>61</sup>

The present manor of Wolvey is that sometimes referred to as *WOLVEY ASTLEY*, which consisted of 37 messuages, 3 carucates, 10½ virgates in Wolvey and Withybrook in 1304 when it was settled by Thomas de Wulfheye on his daughter and coher Alice de Estley, subject to a life tenure for himself.<sup>62</sup> Thomas was still alive in 1311, when he relinquished the coronership of Warwickshire on account of old age and infirmity.<sup>63</sup> Alice widow of Giles de Astley was lady of Wolvey in 1341.<sup>64</sup> Thomas de Astley, Alice's son, had licence in 1346 to impark his woods, and free warren, in Wolvey and elsewhere,<sup>65</sup> and held 1 fee of Sir William Ferrers of Groby in 1371.<sup>66</sup> Sir William de Astley (died 1387–8), Thomas's son, gave his manor of Wolvey to his brother Giles and his wife Catherine at an annual rent of a grain of wheat.<sup>67</sup> Giles in 1394–5 admitted William de Screegham to a hermitage on Wolvey Heath, to pray for his ancestors and the founders and benefactors of Combe Abbey. Later he was in dispute with the Abbot of Combe about the presentation to this hermitage, the right of pasture on the heath, and the 100 acres granted to the abbey by Robert Basset in the 12th century. This was settled in 1413 by an award of Reynold, Lord Grey de Ruthin,



ASTLEY. *Azure three cinquefoils ermine.*

and Richard (Crosby), Prior of Coventry, whereby the 100 acres were confirmed to Combe, and the pasture and presentation to the hermitage held in common.<sup>68</sup> Giles died in 1427;<sup>69</sup> his great-grandson William presented John Iddezeard to the hermitage in 1501<sup>70</sup> and held the manor at his death, in 1542, of the Marquess of Dorset (Lord Ferrers of Groby) as of his manor of Astley.<sup>71</sup> His son George was then 28; the manor continued to descend in the family till about 1730.<sup>72</sup> From 1747 to 1761 William White was lord,<sup>73</sup> in right of his wife Elizabeth (Simmonds) granddaughter of the last Astley;<sup>74</sup> his son William, lord in 1774, was a lunatic, the rights being exercised by his sister Elizabeth,<sup>75</sup> who brought the manor by marriage to George Arnold of Ashby St. Ledgers (Northants).<sup>76</sup> She died in 1788,<sup>77</sup> and he was lord up to 1805,<sup>78</sup> when he was succeeded by George Henry,<sup>79</sup> his son by his second wife, Georgeana, daughter of George Henry Arnold, married (1840) James Cope of Goldharng (Essex),<sup>80</sup> and their grandson Mr. Cranfield C. H. Cope-Arnold was lord in 1936.<sup>81</sup>

Alice, widow of Reynold de Atlebergh<sup>82</sup> (and daughter of Ivo de Dene), granted 2 virgates and 2 tofts in 1257 to Robert de Saunford, Master of the Order of Templars.<sup>83</sup> This estate, assessed at a quarter of a fee, continued to be held by the Templars or their successors the Hospitaliers<sup>84</sup> till the Reformation.<sup>85</sup> On the suppression of the Templars it brought in 7s. rent from freeholders and 40s. from a water-mill and a windmill.<sup>86</sup> In 1553 it was granted, as a separate manor, to Edward Aglionby and Henry Higford.<sup>87</sup> This manor changed hands very rapidly, being alienated by Aglionby to Edward Marrowe in or before 1557 and by Marrowe to William Newman and Agnes his wife in that year.<sup>88</sup> The Newmans passed it to Edmund Scarning in 1561.<sup>89</sup> He was dealing with this manor, known as *TEMPLE WOLVEY*, in 1570,<sup>90</sup> and at his death (1604) it was extended at 2 messuages, 4 cottages, a windmill, 12 gardens and orchards, and 640 acres of land and heath, with the privilege of free warren.<sup>91</sup> Ezechias his son had licence of entry in 1606<sup>92</sup> and held it in 1642 when Gilbert Fitch, to whom he had let the estate, caused damage by cutting down trees.<sup>93</sup> In 1646, three weeks before his death, Ezechias, who was then eighty, sold the manor to John Smallbrook, whose right was disputed by Elizabeth and Susan, cousins of Ezechias, and their respective husbands Thomas Phillips and Thomas Wakelyn.<sup>94</sup> Later it was divided into three parts among the Smallbrook coheirresses,<sup>95</sup> of whom Mary Best was dealing with her third in 1691;<sup>96</sup> she or her daughter Mary and

the Templars remitted to the Abbot of Combe the demand for suit to this mill: Cott. MS. Vitell. A.1. fol. 89.

<sup>87</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1553, p. 235.

<sup>88</sup> *Ibid.* 1555–7, p. 345.

<sup>89</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 3 & 4 Eliz.;

Pat. 3 Eliz. pt. 8.

<sup>90</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Hil. 12 Eliz.

<sup>91</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccxix, 47.

<sup>92</sup> Fine R. 3 Jas. I, pt. 1, no. 6. Ezechias

had a dispute in 1617 over the boundary

between his land and that of Thomas

Astley: Exch. Dec. Mich. 15 Jas. I, 13.

<sup>93</sup> *Hist. MSS. Comm. Appx.* to 5th Rep.

pt. 1, p. 20.

<sup>94</sup> Chan. Proc. Bridges, 16, no. 109.

<sup>95</sup> Dugd. 68. Ezechias Smallbrook was

dealing with this manor in 1666: Com.

Pleas Recov. R. Hil. 1655, m. 11.

<sup>96</sup> Feet of F. Warw. Mich. 3 Wm. &

Mary.

<sup>60</sup> *Kent. Mag.* 1824 (2), 510.

<sup>61</sup> Kelly, *Directory Warwus.* (1900);

Burke, *Landed Gentry* (1937).

<sup>62</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xv), 1205.

<sup>63</sup> *Cal. Clois.* 1307–13, p. 371.

<sup>64</sup> Cott. MS. Vitell. A.1. fol. 90v.

<sup>65</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1345–8, p. 480; Norman R.

20 Edw. III (no. 639), m. 17.

<sup>66</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. 45 Edw. III, 1st nos.

22. <sup>67</sup> Dugd. 67. <sup>68</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>69</sup> Monument in Astley Church noted

by Dugdale (p. 118), but no longer existing

in 1730.

<sup>70</sup> Dugd. 67.

<sup>71</sup> Exch. Inq. p.m. 1145, no. 6.

<sup>72</sup> Recov. R. East. 9 Chas. I, m. 9;

Feet of F. Div. Cos. Mich. 1657; Dugd.

67–8; *Warw. Co. Records*, i, 13, 16.

<sup>73</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations.

<sup>74</sup> *Game Mag.* 1824 (2), 509.

<sup>75</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations.

<sup>76</sup> Baker, *Northants*, i, 247.

<sup>77</sup> *Gent. Mag.* loc. cit.

<sup>78</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations.

<sup>79</sup> Recov. R. Mich. 58 Geo. III, ro. 223.

<sup>80</sup> Burke, *Landed Gentry*.

<sup>81</sup> Kelly, *Directory Warwus.*

<sup>82</sup> Widow of Reynold son of Jordan of

(Nun)eaton (of which Attleborough is a

hamlet). See note 29 above.

<sup>83</sup> Feet of F. (Dugd. Soc. xi), 671.

<sup>84</sup> Between 1518 and 1529 the Prior of

the Order of Hospitaliers sued relatives of

the former Prior for detention of documents

relating to the Warwickshire posses-

sions of the Order, including a manor in

Wolvey: *E. Chan. Proc. bde.* 588, no.

36.

<sup>85</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* 438 (p. 250); vii, 150

(p. 123); Chan. Inq. p.m. i Hen. VI, 51;

3 Hen. VI, 28.

<sup>86</sup> Dugd. 68. In 1247–8 the Master of

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

John Parker, son of Thomas Parker of Chilvers Coton, the husband of another of the heiresses, were jointly in possession in 1723.<sup>97</sup> Later in the century it was reunited in the Miller family, the Rev. Arthur Miller being lord in 1775 and Arthur Gramer Miller between 1785 and 1815.<sup>98</sup> By 1850 the Temple was only 'an ancient farmhouse' in possession of Thomas Worthington.<sup>99</sup>

The manor of *WOLVEY GRANGE* or *LEICESTER GRANGE* was part of the Combe estates, and leased in 1459 by the convent to John Perkyns and others for their lives at a yearly rent of 40s.<sup>1</sup> In 1561 William Devereux was cited to show by what title he held the manor of the Grange in the counties of Warwick and Leicester, almost certainly this manor.<sup>2</sup> By 1587 it had come into the possession of William Willoughby;<sup>3</sup> his son Gilbert,<sup>4</sup> of Normanton on Soar (Notts.), settled it on his wife Frances (Walkeden) and died in 1593, when his son William was 3 years old.<sup>5</sup> This William was the last of his line, dying in 1629,<sup>6</sup> when his estates were sold to various purchasers, those in Wolvey coming to Edward Cotton, who died seised of the grange, described as a farm, in 1635-6, and Susan his daughter, wife of William Jones, who died two years later.<sup>7</sup> Her heir was George Bennett, her son by a former husband, but the next recorded owner was Sir William Perkyns, who was convicted of high treason in 1696, the manor being regranted by the Crown in fee simple to his widow, who the following year conveyed it to her eldest son, Blackwell Perkyns.<sup>8</sup> The latter died in 1721,<sup>9</sup> the next owner being Dr. George Aldridge, who in 1735 mortgaged it to William, Lord Craven, the grandson of the latter purchasing the fee simple in 1774, which he sold the following year to the Earl of Denbigh.<sup>10</sup> In 1780 the manor was bought by John Foster, who was recorded as lord in 1790, as was his son Robert in 1802,<sup>11</sup> the latter being alive in 1808. Edward White, Mary Ann (Foster) his wife, and Dorothy Foster her sister were vouches in a recovery of 1821,<sup>12</sup> after which this manor is not separately mentioned.

The Astleys during the 14th century granted much property in Wolvey to their own and other religious foundations. A messuage, land, pasture, and rent here were in 1337 licensed to be granted by Thomas de Astley to his chantry, later college, of Astley.<sup>13</sup> In 1535 the land and tenements composing the estate were worth 30s.<sup>14</sup> These were surrendered to the Crown in 1545,<sup>15</sup> and granted in tail the following year to Henry, Marquess of Dorset, and Lady Frances his wife.<sup>16</sup> After his attainder they were resumed by the Crown and regranted in 1598-9 to Edward Stanhope.<sup>17</sup>

In 1343 Alice de Asteley, Thomas's mother, was licensed to grant 2 messuages and 2 virgates for the maintenance of a chantry in the chapel of St. Mary in Wolvey church.<sup>18</sup> After the Reformation this was kept in Crown hands till 1616, when it was granted to John Gray and Samuel Jones of London.<sup>19</sup>

Thomas de Asteley also granted a messuage and 36 acres to Arbury Priory in 1341, to maintain a chaplain to say mass for the souls of himself and relations in the priory church.<sup>20</sup> Arbury property in Wolvey also included the 'old' mill by Giselbrugge, a messuage called Reucocroft, and 60 acres of land granted c. 1200 by Reynold Basset;<sup>21</sup> in 1535 the total value was 40s.<sup>22</sup>

The priory of Monks Kirby had common of pasture in Wolvey and Copston of the gift of Reynold Basset,<sup>23</sup> and was allowed view of frankpledge of its tenants, with infangthef and weyf in Wolvey in 1305.<sup>24</sup> These privileges were accorded to Axholme Priory (Lincs.) in 1469.<sup>25</sup>

*LITTLE COPSTON* was granted by Ivo de Harecort to Robert Basset in the second half of the 12th century, and the latter 'very suddenly after' gave a carucate here to Combe Abbey.<sup>26</sup> Other land in this hamlet, held by Thomas de Asteley, was, after his death at the battle of Evesham, granted to Warin de Bassingburn.<sup>27</sup> Under the Dictum of Kenilworth Thomas's estates were redeemed by his son Andrew for 320 marks, which he obtained from the monks of Combe in return for the grant of his Copston property.<sup>28</sup> Copston is mentioned separately in the grant of free warren to Combe Abbey (1290),<sup>29</sup> and remained a monastic estate till the Dissolution. An eighth part of Copston Field was demised in 1518 by the abbot and convent to Christopher Sadeler of Wolvershill for 40 years, doing suit at the abbot's court of Wolvey twice a year;<sup>30</sup> and the whole was worth as much as £21 6s. 8d. to the abbey in 1535.<sup>31</sup> It subsequently followed the descent of the Combe Abbey manor, and is now more generally known as Smockington, the name of a hamlet of Burbage (Leics.) situated on both sides of the Watling Street.<sup>32</sup>

The parish church of *ST. JOHN THE CHURCH BAPTIST* stands on the east side of the main road between Coventry and Hinckley, in a small churchyard. It consists of chancel, nave, north and south aisles, west tower, and south porch. Apart from the south door, nothing remains of the 12th-century church. It was rebuilt early in the 13th century and again in the 14th century, the tower being either rebuilt or added in the 15th century. It has been considerably restored at various times; the north wall of the nave was rebuilt in 1630, slightly north of its original line, re-using a considerable amount of the old material; the

<sup>97</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations.

<sup>98</sup> Ibid.; Feet of F. Warw. Trin. 30 Geo. III.

<sup>99</sup> White, *Directory Warw.* 597-8.

<sup>1</sup> Nichols, *Leics.* iv, 469.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), ccxvi, 101.

<sup>4</sup> Gilbert mortgaged Wolvey Grange to

Edmund Scarning in 1589; Chan. Proc.

Eliz. W, w. 19, no. 46.

<sup>5</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), ccxcviii, 85.

<sup>6</sup> Thosoton, *Notts.* (ed. Throsby), i, 12.

<sup>7</sup> Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), dxxiv, 87;

dcliii, 27.

<sup>8</sup> Nichols, *Leics.* iv, 469-70.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid. 465.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid. 470.

<sup>11</sup> Gamekeepers' Deputations.

<sup>12</sup> Recov. R. East. 2 Geo. IV, no. 137.

<sup>13</sup> Cal. Pat. 1334-8, p. 389; 1343-5,

p. 1. Geoffrey, Abbot of Combe, gave per-

mission for a messuage, 2 virgates, and 6

acres to be so granted: Cott. MS. Vitell.

A.1, fol. 9 v.

<sup>14</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 61.

<sup>15</sup> L. and P. Hen. VIII, xx (2), 825.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid. xxi (1), 1537 (7).

<sup>17</sup> Pat. 41 Eliz. pt. 17.

<sup>18</sup> Cal. Pat. 1343-5, p. 26; Chan. Inq.

a.d. cclxvi, 15. The actual grant (1344)

was of 2 messuages, 2½ virgates, and 4

acres of land, and 2s. rent: P.R.O. Anct.

Deeds, A. 12138.

<sup>19</sup> Cal. S.P. Dom. 1625-49, p. 724; Pat.

14 Jas. I, pt. 26.

<sup>20</sup> Cal. Pat. 1340-3, p. 348; Chan. Inq.

a.d. cclvi, 20.

<sup>21</sup> P.R.O. Anct. Deeds, B. 6220.

<sup>22</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 56.

<sup>23</sup> Dugd. 66.

<sup>24</sup> Cal. Chart. R. iii, 60; Chan. Inq.

a.d. li, 10.

<sup>25</sup> Cal. Pat. 1467-77, p. 135.

<sup>26</sup> Dugd. 71; Cal. Chart. R. i, 352; Cott.

MS. Vitell. A.1, fols. 84, 89.

<sup>27</sup> Cal. Pat. 1258-66, p. 533.

<sup>28</sup> Dugd. 71, quoting Astley MSS.

<sup>29</sup> Cal. Chart. R. ii, 343.

<sup>30</sup> P.R.O. Anct. Deeds, D. 1310.

<sup>31</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 54.

<sup>32</sup> e.g. Recov. R. East. 28 Geo. III, no.

182; Dugd. 71. In 1625 the pastures of

Copstan Fields were to pay one-third of

the taxes on Wolvey, of one-half as

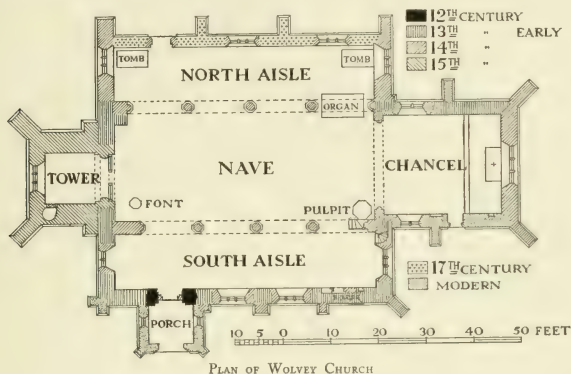
previously: *Warw. Co. Records*, i, 12.

east gable was rebuilt in 1624; in the 19th century the clearstory was rebuilt and the nave reroofed. In 1909 a timber-framed south porch was replaced by a stone one, and about the same time the south wall of the chancel was rebuilt with a new doorway and window, and a corresponding window put into the north wall.

The chancel has a moulded plinth and diagonal buttresses at the angles. The gable of the east wall has a tablet inscribed 'Ano. dni. 1624 Robart Kelley'; below, the wall was refaced with ashlar in the 19th century. It is lighted by a pointed traceried window of three trefoil lights, the mullions and tracery modern. The rubble of the north wall has been patched, the wall-head rebuilt, and a central buttress added. Between the buttresses to the east there is a roll-moulded string, and to the west a modern pointed traceried window of two trefoil lights. The south wall was re-

decorated, one with cable moulding, the other with chevrons. There are traces of an outer band of ornament which has been hacked off. In the 14th century, a doorway with a roll-moulded segmental-pointed arch was built into the original opening.

The east wall of the north aisle, built of rubble, has a plain modern parapet. It has a window corresponding to the south aisle. The 17th-century rebuilt north wall is divided into three bays by buttresses and is finished with a modern plain parapet on a moulded string-course. Each of the bays to the east has a similar window to the one in the east wall, and in the west bay there is a doorway with a pointed moulded head and jambs, mostly original 14th-century work re-used. The east buttress is in five stages, the centre stage gabled, largely 14th-century work re-used; it is dated 1630. The west window corresponds with the east. The nave



PLAN OF WOLVEY CHURCH

built in ashlar in recent times with a new four-centred doorway and a window like that on the north which was inserted at the same time. The east wall of the south aisle has a beak moulding at sill level, a plinth of one splay, and a 14th-century traceried window of three cinquefoil lights; the plain parapet is modern. The south wall is divided into four bays by buttresses; that at the south-east angle is diagonal and terminates in a crocketed finial. Each bay, except the west which is occupied by a porch, has a window like that in the east wall, and the beak moulding is continued. The parapet, which has been much restored, is panelled with plain and quatrefoil panels alternately; it rests on a coved string-course and finishes with a moulded coping.

The porch is built of sandstone ashlar, with a tiled roof, and has on each side a single trefoil light. The entrance has a pointed arch on attached shafts with moulded capitals and bases. Some of the roof timbers from the old porch have been re-used, a curved truss with a carved boss, moulded purlins and ridge dating from the early 17th century. The 12th-century round-headed doorway is of two orders, the outer decorated with zigzag and the inner with conventional foliage. Both orders rest on detached shafts with carved capitals, decorated with grotesque birds, and moulded bases. The shafts to the outer order are plain, to the inner

walls, built of a mixture of rubble and squared stones have a plain modern parapet.

The tower rises in three stages, each stage diminished by a weathered offset. It has diagonal buttresses rising in five weathered stages, and a moulded plinth, and is crowned by a battlemented parapet with gargoyles and panelled piers at each corner, from which the pinnacles are missing. The ground floor is lighted on the west by a traceried window of three trefoil lights under a hollow-splayed segmental-pointed head, and above there is an inserted niche with a four-centred cinquefoil head. In the second stage there is a square window to the ringing-chamber and a clock dial. The traceried belfry windows on each face are in deep hollow splays with four-centred heads over two cinquefoil lights. Let into the ashlar face on the west is a small shield, and in each of the other faces a small carved mask. On the south side there are loop-lights at each stage to the tower staircase, now blocked up to utilize the staircase as a boiler chimney.

The chancel (26 ft. 6 in. by 20 ft. 3 in.) has unplastered walls, a modern tiled floor and two steps to a modern altar. At the east end of the south wall there is an ogee-headed piscina fitted with a modern shelf in place of a basin. The reredos, of carved stone and marble, and the open roof of three bays are modern.

# A HISTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE

The nave (54 ft. by 22 ft. 6 in.) is paved with stone and has unplastered rubble walling up to a little above the apex of the arcade arches, above which it is rebuilt in squared and coursed masonry, and on the south side four clearstory windows of two trefoil lights inserted. Both arcades consist of four bays of pointed arches of two splayed orders on octagonal pillars with moulded capitals and bases, and half-octagonal responds. At the east end of the north arcade the respond had been cut away for a sunk round-headed panel; the cut-away portion has recently been restored, the respond now passing through the centre of the panel. At the east end of the south arcade there is a blocked doorway which opened on to the rood-loft. The pointed chancel arch, with moulded capitals and bases to the responds, is modern and has a carved boss at the apex. The tower arch is four-centred, of two splayed orders, resting on half-octagonal responds with moulded capitals and splayed bases. On the north side of the present arch there are traces of a round-headed arch and the end of an earlier wall which now acts as a buttress. The arcade was built outside it, making the tower out of centre with the nave and chancel. Above the arch is a narrow opening which has a wide splayed recess on the tower side. The roof is a modern one of four bays, the trusses resting on stone corbels. The pulpit is modern oak, octagonal with carved traceried panels and at each angle carved figures under crocketed canopies. The font, in the south-west corner, is in the form of an octagonal pillar with a moulded capital and trefoiled panels; only the 14th-century capital with a deep lead-lined basin is original. On the west wall there are two painted lists of benefactions.

The south aisle (54 ft. 3 in. by 11 ft. 6 in.) is paved with stone and has a modern roof on the timbers of one of the 18th century; carved on one of the beams are the initials E.B. T.F. TA. 1778. The walling is of rubble and, up to a roll-moulding at sill level, dates from the early 13th century. In the east wall at its junction with the arcade there is a round-headed doorway to a circular roof-loft staircase, and the wall below the adjoining window has been cut away to continue the splayed recess to the ground. At the eastern end of the south wall there is a badly mutilated piscina which appears to have had attached shafts. Adjoining it are triple sedilia with roll-moulded round arches of two orders, the inner trefoiled, on attached shafts with moulded capitals and bases, all early-13th-century and somewhat mutilated; in the 14th century the eastern one was filled in with masonry flush with the wall. All the windows have pointed roll-moulded rear-arches, and the recess of the west window is extended to the floor in the same way as the east. Just inside the door, which has a segmental rear-arch, there is an oak panelled alms-box, dated 1723, and against the west wall a painted and grained iron-bound chest with three original locks, probably early 18th century.

The north aisle (54 ft. 3 in. by 11 ft. 3 in.) is paved with stone and has a modern roof on earlier timbers, similar to the south aisle; one of the beams has the initials H.T. T.F. C.W. 1726. In rebuilding the north wall it was moved inwards and now overlaps the splayed reveals of the east and west windows. At the east end

there is a table tomb<sup>33</sup> to Thomas Astley, knight, died 1603, and Catherine his wife. It has life-sized effigies; the man, wearing a beard, is dressed in armour, his head resting on a helmet; his hands and feet are broken, his sword is missing, and his features are somewhat defaced. The woman, wearing a large bonnet and a very large ruff, has her head resting on a cushion; her hands and feet are damaged. The panels on the visible side are defaced and the visible end panel has an inscription on a marble panel with a small shield on either side, one is blank, the other has the coat of Astley. There is also an altar tomb at the west end to Thomas de Wolvey, who died c. 1305, and Alice (Clinton) his wife.<sup>34</sup> The visible side is divided into three panels, two with shields and the centre with a defaced inscription and at the end two shields. It has life-sized effigies; the man in chain armour with a shield and sword on his left, his head resting on a cushion and his feet on a lion; the feet are broken. The woman, a much finer piece of work, wears a kerchief and wimple; the drapery of her mantle and cote-hardi is gracefully arranged; in her hands she holds a small heart. She has two cushions under her head and a lion at her feet. All but two of the shields are either blank or mutilated, the two in good condition are (1) ermine on a chief two molets (Clinton), and (2) two lions passant (Erdington). On the north wall there is a large white and grey marble memorial of the Doric order surmounted by an urn, to Elizabeth, wife of Geo. Arnold, died 1778; a white marble cartouche on the arcade wall to John Astley, died 1708; and a small black and white marble memorial with a broken pediment on marble columns to Giles Astley, died 1666. There are also a number of mural tablets of the 18th and 19th centuries.

The tower (10 ft. 6 in. square), which is stone-paved, has been closed by a modern oak screen to provide a vestry. The door to the tower staircase, now blocked to provide a boiler flue, has a chamfered four-centred head. The walls are unplastered ashlar.

Of the bells the earliest is by John de Yorke (c. 1400) and is said to have been brought from Nuneaton Priory. The others are by Hugh Watts, 1625, and Toby Norris of Stamford, 1680.<sup>35</sup>

The registers of burials begin in 1650, of baptisms and marriages in 1653.

There was a priest at Wolvey in *ADVOWSON* 1086,<sup>36</sup> and a moiety of the church was granted to Combe Abbey by Reynold Basset.<sup>37</sup> Between 1198 and 1207 Bishop Geoffrey de Muschamp decreed that the other half of the church and patronage, including the chapel at Copston, should belong to the Cathedral of Lichfield, constituting a prebend; this, and a confirmation of the original moiety to Combe, was confirmed by Archbishop Hubert Walter and Pope Innocent III.<sup>38</sup> In 1291 each half of the church was worth £6 13s. 4d.;<sup>39</sup> in 1535 the prebendal moiety of the rectory was rated at 43s. 4d.,<sup>40</sup> the value of the vicarage then being £6 6s. 4d., with 9s. 6d. for proxies and synodals.<sup>41</sup> The presentation during the Middle Ages apparently alternated between the prebendary and the convent,<sup>42</sup> which practice was continued, with the lords of the Combe manor, who held also the rectory, replacing the

<sup>33</sup> *Birm. Arch. Soc. Trans.* lviii, 119, and pl. xi, 1. The tomb-chest is of 1702, when the monument, injured by the fall of the roof, was restored.

<sup>34</sup> *Ibid.* xlviii, 41, 76, and pl. iv, 1. The monument was restored in 1702, accord-

ing to the inscription, now partly illegible but given in Dugd. 70.

<sup>35</sup> Tilley and Walters, *Church Bells of Warwick*, 268-9.

<sup>36</sup> *V.C.H. Warwick*, i, 331.

<sup>37</sup> Cott. MS. Vitell. A.1, fol. 84.

<sup>38</sup> *Ibid.* fol. 88.

<sup>39</sup> *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 241.

<sup>40</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 131.

<sup>41</sup> *Ibid.* 58.

<sup>42</sup> Dugd. 69.



convent, till 1732, from which date till 1807 all presentations, except one by the Earl of Coventry in 1784, were made by the bishop.<sup>43</sup> The presentation of 1816 was made by one Samuel Butler, and in 1850<sup>44</sup> and 1859 the advowson was shared between the Bishop and Mr. J. Smith, the latter being represented by J. W. Smith, LL.D. in 1900 and 1915.<sup>45</sup> The living, with Burton Hastings and Stretton Baskerville annexed since 1927, is now in the gift of the Bishop of Coventry.<sup>46</sup>

The Rev. James William Arnold, CHARITIES D.D., by the second codicil to his will, proved on 11 August 1865, directed that the rest of his plate and plated articles not specifically bequeathed should be sold and the proceeds invested, the income during the first ten years to be applied in putting into good repair certain monuments and gravestones in the church of St. Anne, Westminster, and in the parish church of Wolvey, and afterwards towards the decorative repairs of Wolvey church or the chancel thereof. By a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 17 February 1920 the vicar and churchwardens of Wolvey and the owner for the time being of the Wolvey Hall Estate, if such owner be (a) a member of the family of the Founder of the Charity, (b) of full age, and (c) willing to act in the trusts of the charity, were appointed to be trustees of the charity. The annual income of the charity amounts to £19 12s.

Mark Bailey by will dated 24 January 1888 gave to the vicar and churchwardens of Wolvey £10, the interest to be given away in bread to the most needy poor of the parish. The annual income of the charity amounts to 5s. 4d.

William Willoughby by will dated 3 October 1587 bequeathed his lands in Nottingham, Lenton, and Radford on condition to deliver yearly on Whit Sunday to four aged, weak, and needy persons four frieze gowns, ready made, about the price of 10s. apiece, and to six honest men, of occupations, or tradesmen, £6, and to a

godly learned preacher to instruct the people on the said feastday 6s. 8d., the several sums to be paid to the people dwelling within the towns and parishes of Great Marlow in the County of Buckingham, Nuneaton in the County of Warwick, Normanton-on-Soar in the County of Nottingham, the town of Nottingham, and Wolvey in the County of Warwick, successively. The body of trustees of the non-ecclesiastical share of the charity applicable for this parish consists of the vicar, one person nominated by the vicar, and one person appointed by the parish council.

Joseph Barratt in 1801 gave £50, the interest to be distributed yearly in bread upon 2 February to the poor of the parish.

Richard Spooner Jacques by will dated 23 July 1803 gave £100, the interest to be applied for the following uses; 10s. 6d. to be given to the resident minister for a sermon preached on Christmas day, and the remainder to be distributed in sixpenny loaves to poor persons who should attend the preaching of such sermon.

William Winterton, by will dated 25 May 1815 directed his executors to purchase in the name of the vicar, churchwardens, and overseers of the poor of the parish of Wolvey, so much stock as would produce a yearly sum of 50s., which sum he directed should be given in bread to poor widowers and widows belonging to the parish, at the church there, on 13 February. The total annual income of these charities amounts to £5 5s.

Elizabeth Crofts by will dated 25 August 1898 bequeathed £50, the interest to be applied in keeping the tomb and grave of her husband in the Baptist Chapel Yard at Wolvey and also her own grave in proper repair and the surplus (if any) towards the relief of the oldest and poorest widows living in Wolvey. Trustees of the charity are appointed by Order of the Charity Commissioners. The annual income of the charity amounts to £1 13s. 8d.

<sup>43</sup> Inst. Bks. P.R.O.

<sup>44</sup> White, *Directory Warw.* 597.

<sup>45</sup> Clergy Lists.

<sup>46</sup> Crockford, 1940.









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